

athletes from 81 nations e competing in Moscow

...one of the strong nations in athletics, in yesterday joined those who will take the Moscow Olympics. Turkey is not a team. Today is the deadline for invitations. So far 81 countries have President Carter's call for a boycott, but nations have said they would not go.

straliens accept on eve of deadline

...calculated last night... have accepted... to compete at the... in Moscow. So far... have definitely said... will not send teams... it will not be... Tuesday, when the... are published, many teams will... coming ceremony on... is clear that as... line for the accept... invitations expires... one who has any... with these ill-fated... something. Carter and his... move to the... Olympics. Mrs Thatcher, however, failed... attempt to keep... of the West away... v. Equally, however, the Soviet publicity... trumpet the fail... campaign as the... Russians will also... to have lost... the night of the... and West Ger... be on display, the strongest sport... will be seen by the... the various arenas... Moscow. Seeking to keep... politics, the Soviet... the Carter Adminis... repeatedly brought... the Olympics.

atic victory

...terday, Mr Vitaly... chairman of the... committee for... said on Soviet tele... his country had... diplomatic victory... nited States. The... are keeping their... a closely... until Tuesday. He said that the... at the head... the International... in Lausanne... would turn into... a meeting of... her closest allies... spelled... and the Inter... Olympic Committee... in sporting terms... may suffer from... of the Americans... Germany will cer... some of the... swimming, boxing...

ce installs rful new ar missiles

...hened its nuclear striking... day by arming nine new... on the Plateau... Haute Provence. Each... megaton warhead, 55 times... of the Hiroshima bomb... of 2,100 miles. Together... submarines and Mirage... new missiles will raise... ing power to 75 megatons... planned to increase this... by 1985.

ttlements plan

...abinet is pressing ahead... element schemes in occu... ritory which are likely to... perussions for the dead... East peace process. It... plans for seizure of... res in the Gaza Strip for... Page 4

h friction

...iction between Britain... in evidence in a state... r Norman Tebbit, an... y of State for Trade, the British crew or the... und controllers were... the Dan-Air Boeing 727... Page 2

Europeans flying to Iran for talks on hostages

By Our Foreign Staff

Three senior European Socialists are going to Tehran this weekend to try to secure the release of the American hostages, it was stated in London yesterday. Senior Felipe Gonzalez, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, who is flying to Iran today, may be joined there tomorrow by Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, and Mr Olaf Palme, the Swedish Social Democratic Party leader. Mr Berni Carls, general secretary of the Socialist International, said in London that the three were definitely going and referred further inquiries to Dr Kreisky's office in Vienna. The office, however, denied that Dr Kreisky was going to Tehran this weekend.

In Stockholm sources from Mr Palme's party said that the planned visit had been leaked in Madrid by Spanish Socialist sources and publicity might jeopardize or delay the visit. Mr Palme refused to confirm or deny reports of the impending visit. Though the delegation is thought to be a personal initiative by Mr Palme, it is sponsored by Socialist International, which is made up of Socialist parties from 42 nations. Because all three men have important engagements in Europe early next week it is not thought any visit would last beyond Tuesday. If the visit takes place Dr Kreisky will be the first head of government to visit Iran in an attempt to solve the hostage crisis.

There were reports in Madrid last week that leading Spanish politicians, including Senator Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister, were involved in an initiative to secure the release of the hostages. These were strongly denied in Washington. The Senator Gonzalez discussed a possible Socialist International initiative with Mr Francois Mitterrand, the French Socialist leader, when he was in Madrid a few days ago.

In Tehran yesterday, sources close to the Iranian Government said that Senator Gonzalez and Mr Palme were to visit Iran today to travel with Dr Kreisky to Tehran. They were to study, with Iranian authorities, various aspects of the Iranian-American conflict, especially the case of the 53 American hostages held there since November 4.

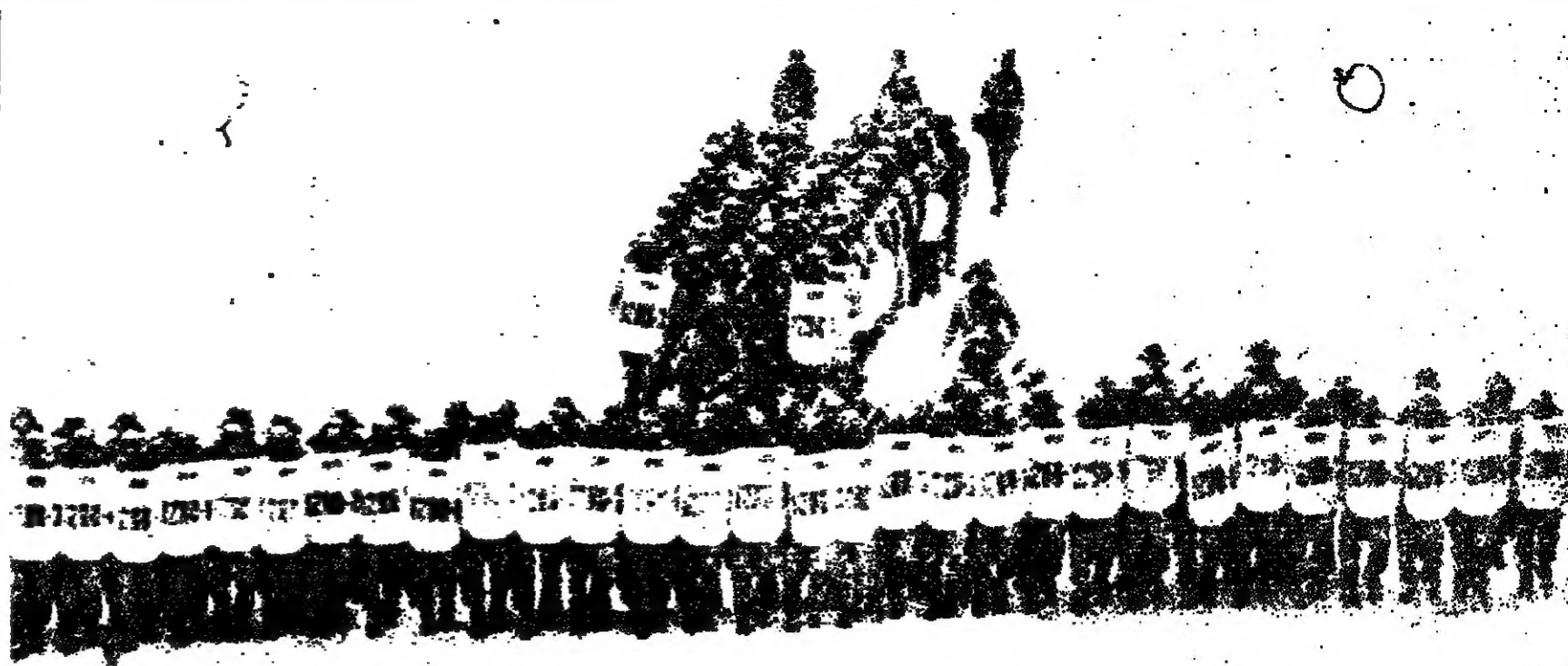
Outlawed party leaders executed

Tehran, May 23.—Two leaders of the outlawed Muslim People's Republican Party, including a clergyman, were executed last night in the north-western Iranian city of Tabriz, the official Pars news agency reported today.

The two men, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Reza Iran and Abolqasem Rostamabadi, were charged with taking part in last December's rebellion in the city by Turkish-speaking followers of Ayatollah Khomeini. The charges also included insulting Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leading the occupation of the local radio station and airport, and arresting and torturing their opponents, two of whom subsequently died. The party revolt collapsed when Ayatollah Khomeini withdrew his support for the party and its offices were stormed by pro-Khomeini revolutionary guards.—Reuter.

Nine Gordonstoun boys expelled

Nine boys at Gordonstoun have been expelled for smoking cannabis, the headmaster of the school said last night. Police are investigating the alleged possession of cannabis there. None of the expelled boys was in the same house as Prince Edward, whose elder brothers, the Prince of Wales and Prince Andrew, were also pupils at the public school near Lossiemouth, Grampian.



Riot police form a barricade to block the way of anti-government demonstrators in Kwangju, South Korea, where at least 150 people have died.

Tanks join troops surrounding rebel South Korean town

From Jacqueline Reditt

Seoul, May 23.—The South Korean Army brought in heavy tanks to reinforce the strong forces surrounding the rebel town of Kwangju today. Although many Kwangju people left the town, fearing the Army would attack, other militants refused to surrender.

A citizens' committee continued meetings throughout the day with martial law authorities in an attempt to agree on conditions for the disarmament of the city. Compensation for those killed or wounded in the five days of fighting was agreed to avoid a final, bloody confrontation and others determined not to give in, regardless of the heavy odds. The Army was dug in on all sides of the town, supported by tanks, armoured troop carriers, and soldiers who trained their rifles on the crowds of onlookers. In many places they had set up barriers of barbed wire and sandbags.

Fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships also stood by, but did not fly today over the town which according

to eye-witnesses, was quieter than at any time in the past five days. There were no reports of further violence in the rest of Cholla province.

Fears that North Korea may take advantage of the turmoil have been voiced in many quarters, but so far there have been no discernible moves from the north.

Unexplained troop movements in North Korea were given as one of the reasons for the declaration of full martial law in the south last weekend, but students said this was an excuse for the military to crack down on their political activities. United States Embassy officials in Seoul said they had no evidence to confirm an immediate North Korean military threat.

President Choi earlier warned the nation that workers and students who took part in violent demonstrations were playing into the hands of North Korea, which was intent on taking the south by force.

The martial law command has blamed the Cholla uprising on North Korean spies who had fomented the

riots by spreading vicious rumours. The United States Defence Department agreed yesterday to release an unspecified number of Korean troops from the United States-Korean Combined Forces Command to help to control the disorders.

The counter-espionage operations headquarters in Seoul said today that North Korea might attempt to make Cholla province a base for a guerrilla uprising and was expected to increase provocations against the south and to infiltrate armed agents to take advantage of the instability.

Two American airborne warning and control aircraft arrived in Olinara today, to be held ready as a precaution. They have radar equipment that enables them to detect troop movements 300 miles away.

It was also confirmed that two American aircraft carriers have been diverted to South Korea as a warning to North Korea that the United States is firmly behind the South Korean Government.

Pound at new peak as US prime rates fall

By Caroline Atkinson

The pound reached a new five-year peak against the dollar yesterday in the aftermath of further cuts in American banks' prime rates.

In active trading for a Friday afternoon, the pound touched \$2.3470 at one point. It came back slightly by the end of the day to close at \$2.3450, the highest closing level since May 1975, and a rise of 1.6 cents from Thursday's finishing level. Although the dollar was generally weak, sterling rose by more than other major currencies. The high level of interest rates in Britain and under the foreign investors, especially now that American interest rates have plunged from recent peaks.

The markets appear to be unmoved by the bad economic news in Britain and under the even by a 21.8 per cent inflation rate from holding sterling. Recent assertions by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the cost of money in Britain will stay high for the time being have attracted overseas money into London this week. Despite industry's fears of damage to manufacturers' profits and market shares from a high pound, the Government seems determined to leave the rate to be decided by the market.

Sir Geoffrey Howe repeated the commitment to staying out of foreign exchange markets last week. He pointed out that a strong exchange rate helped inflation.

But the present strength of the pound has had a severe impact on British competitiveness, which is now at an all time low. Britain has the highest inflation rate among the big industrialized countries, and one of the strongest currencies.

Sterling's rate against an average of other currencies reached 74.3 per cent of its end-1974 value yesterday. This is the highest closing level since the measure was first calculated in 1977, and equals the record value touched during Thursday.

The pound has now risen by 91 per cent against the dollar and by 21 per cent against a basket weighted average of currencies since Easter. Oil price rises are another factor buoying up the pound, which is viewed as an oil-backed currency and a good hedge against dearer oil. The German and Swiss currencies also all gained at the dollar's expense yesterday. The Deutschmark rose by 1.15 pfennings on the day to finish at DM1.785. The dollar was heavily sold in Tokyo, continuing the trend set earlier in the week.

Prime rates down, page 19

Whitehall's forts held by skeleton regiments

By John Young

For most of Britain's 700,000 civil servants, the Bank holiday weekend began a day early. Government departments were manned yesterday by skeleton staffs and, in one or two cases at least, closed altogether. The pretext for that notably unpublicized state of affairs was the Queen's birthday. In fact the Queen has two birthdays, a private one and an official one, and yesterday was neither of them.

The Civil Service Department, which orders such things, was among those closed for the day. From his home, an official explained that, by halved tradition, bureaucrats were entitled to two-and-a-half "privilege days", one at Christmas time, half on Maundy Thursday, and another one on or around the time of the Sovereign's official birthday.

That time-honoured ritual had been thoroughly investigated a few years ago and had been given "a clean bill of health", he added. It had been found at the time that employees in private industry were, on the whole, given considerably more generous holidays than those in the public sector.

The precise interpretation of yesterday's day of inaction appeared to have been left to individual department heads. The ever-watchful Ministry of Defence, for example, reported that half its staff were working, but would be entitled to take Tuesday off if needed. At the Department of Trade an official remarked: "we are one of the few departments that does not completely close down. All sections must be manned at all times, because we are concerned with international trade, and that is not something that can be neglected for several days at a time".

For some taxmen, too, it was business as usual. "We are open today and on Tuesday", the Inland Revenue stated. "An extra holiday does not mean that we interrupt business and close our doors."

But the Home Office admitted that its staff were "pretty thin on the ground", although essential sections and ministers' offices were manned. The Department of the Environment said its switchboard and press office were functioning, but that most other employees were on holiday.

Telephone callers to the Department of Health and Social Security were liable to encounter either an engaged tone or a recorded announcement that the office was closed until Tuesday. But an official reached at home, explained that local offices were open throughout the country.

Esso prices up by another 1p

Esso raised its petrol prices by a further 1p a gallon from midnight. Last Friday, the company increased its petrol prices by 2p a gallon.

The new increase comes in the wake of rises this week by other oil companies, and those rises announced by some Opec countries. Esso, which has about a fifth of the British petrol market, said it still was not recovering the total increase in its costs.

S African troops kill 81 Swapo guerrillas

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, May 23

In the biggest battle yet in the bush war, 81 black nationalist guerrillas have been killed by South African troops in South-West Africa (Namibia). South African defence headquarters in Pretoria and Windhoek announced tonight that five South African soldiers died in the action. They were a captain, a lieutenant, two second lieutenants and a corporal.

A statement issued in Pretoria said: "The soldiers died after they had walked into a huge enemy ambush on the border. A hectic firefight started and the security forces went over to the offensive immediately. Although the security forces suffered losses the terrorists were driven back and fled."

"The security forces followed them and in the ensuing contact 81 terrorists were shot dead. The security forces also confiscated and destroyed huge amounts of light and heavy weapons and ammunition."

Behind the terse South African statement is a clear indication that its forces have been involved in the fiercest battle

so far in the 13-year-old bush war.

South-West African People's Organization (Swapo) group so far have raided South-West Africa in small numbers of 10 to about 25. The South African statement suggests a massive raid across the Angolan border in strength against Swapo bases in southern Angola.

As usual, the South African statement gave no indication of casualties other than soldiers killed suffered by its forces. But the fact that four officers and an ace were killed in the battle suggests that a number of men also must have been wounded.

The South African statement said that the massive Swapo raid "confirms the tendency that they are trying in desperation to improve their low morale by fighting in large groups in order to recover lost prestige."

But while it is clear that Swapo cannot bear the losses it has sustained in the battle revealed by the South Africans, nor can South Africa bear losses to a virtually lost cause in which young national servicemen and regular officers are exposed to such risk.

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HOME NEWS

Prime Minister has not ruled out pay policy, Chancellor says

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, last night declared that the Prime Minister had not ruled out an incomes policy, though it was the last thing he wanted.

The Chancellor's remarks, made in Liverpool, were the first ministerial hint in recent months that the Government may have to resort to an incomes policy if there is a wage explosion in this autumn's pay round, even though it would mean a turnaround in the Prime Minister's economic strategy.

His comments will come as no surprise to some Tory backbenchers, the so-called "wets", who have been forecasting privately that the Government will have to bring in an incomes policy if the rise in inflation is to be held.

At the same conference Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, gave warning of a "protracted winter of discontent".

Sir Geoffrey said last night that an incomes policy was something he did not think sensible or necessary, but it is something the Prime Minister has not ruled out.

"It is the last thing we want because of all its consequences in the past, the seeds of its own destruction."

Although the Prime Minister and her colleagues have repeat-

edly called for wage restraint, the Chancellor did not say at what level pay rises should be fixed.

It was noted the Government to fix figures, norms, or pay levels, he said. The important thing to recognize was that in every main industrial country, in the light of rises in oil prices, pay increases were running at 3 per cent below price inflation.

He went on to compliment Liverpool's 5,000 dock workers, who had accepted a 13 per cent pay rise, and British Leyland workers, who had accepted deals between 5 and 7 per cent.

"It shows that in the end more people are learning the inevitable connection between the safety of their jobs and the level of pay settlements. The more moderate wage settlements, the better chances of keeping unemployment down," Sir Geoffrey said.

Car factory crisis: The Scottish TUC is to press for top-level meetings in an attempt to get assurances on the future of the Talbot car factory at Linwood, Scotland, where 1,300 workers are to lose their jobs. In December, 1,250 workers were paid off. After a meeting yesterday with representatives of the nine unions at the plant, Mr James Milne, STUC general secretary, said talks were being sought with Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, Talbot and the parent company, Peugeot-Citroën.

Tory MPs demand tougher secondary picketing policy

By Our Political Reporter
Political Reporter

Renewed pressure on the Government to take stronger action on secondary picketing than that contained in the Employment Bill is to be mounted by a group of Tory backbenchers after the parliamentary recess.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, who has had to defend his policies at various party conferences in recent weeks, is expected to be asked to attend an early meeting of the Conservative 1922 backbench committee to meet criticisms.

The critics were out in force at the 1922 Committee meeting this week when Mr Michael Topping, the Government Chief Whip, was told that the pro-

posals did not go far enough. He was asked to communicate their concern to Mr Prior as part of the Government's consultative process.

About eight Tory backbenchers complained that the proposed measures, contained in Clause 16 of the Bill, were not strict enough.

They pointed to the fact that the Labour Party in its constitutional document to the TUC reported in *The Times*, had suggested that it could be possible for unions to achieve their objectives "without picketing other than at their members' place".

The backbench critics would like to see the Government table an amendment to the Bill during its passage through the House of Lords to strengthen the law on immunities.

Job-starved area upset by Thatcher visit

From Our Correspondent
Sunderland

Mrs Margaret Thatcher got a mixed reception when she visited job-starved Wearside during her whirlwind tour of the north-east yesterday.

There were cheers for the Prime Minister in the new town centre at Sunderland, where a large crowd, mostly women, had gathered. She was made less welcome by workers when she visited the Sunderland shipyard, where about 200 people demonstrated against unemployment and the Government's spending cuts.

They lined the approaches to the shipyard's gates and chanted their protests. As her car went into the yard, someone threw a bouquet of dandelions, which landed on the bonnet, but she ignored the incident.

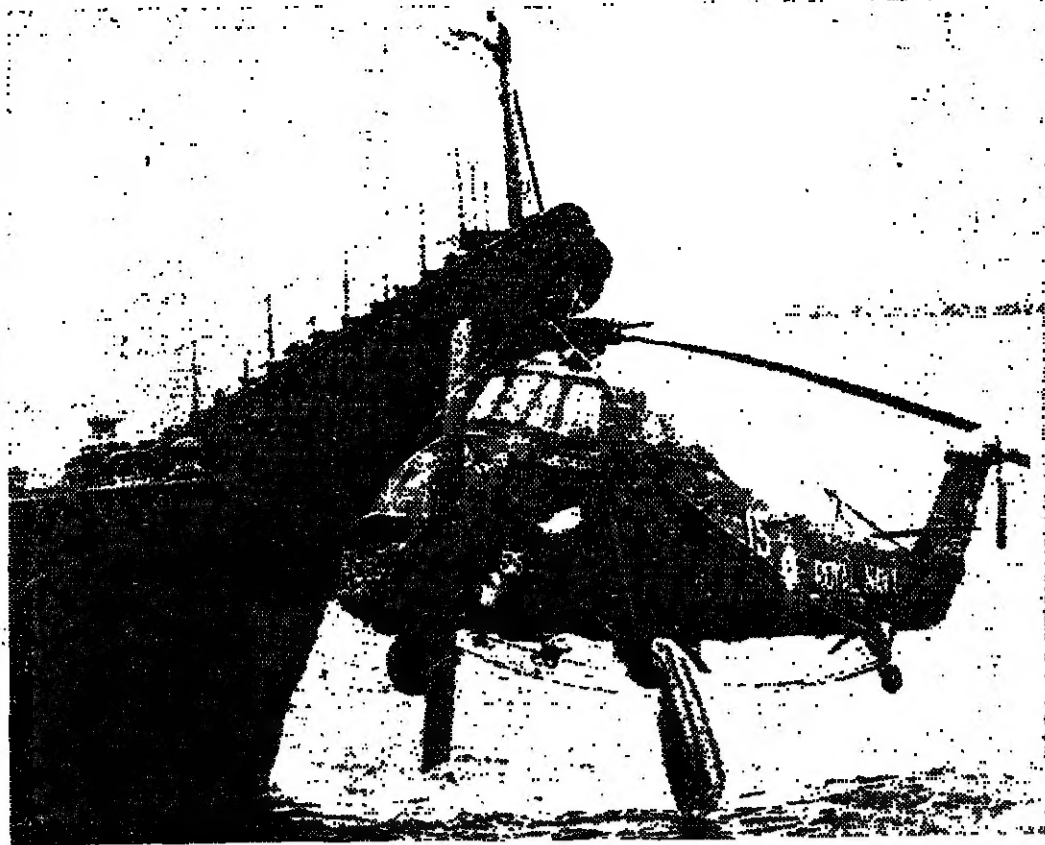
The protest was organized by the Sunderland Trades Council. A spokesman said they wanted to show their anger at the Tory Administration. He said someone threw a bouquet of dandelions, which landed on the bonnet, but she ignored the incident.

There were mild jeers from a group of about 100 men near by. As Mrs Thatcher approached them they dispersed and she asked: "Why are you so shy?"

One of them, Mr Robert Bell, 58, of Seaburn, said he would rather have seen Mr James Callaghan, but she said that was impossible because he happened to be in China. She talked for half an hour with the shipbuilding executives and Mr Percy Parker, board member for shipbuilding.

She began her tour of Wearside early, looking around the new industry in the area. She visited several nurseries, factories on the Pallion West industrial estate, where she said she was thrilled to see the way local businessmen were tackling the disadvantages of being in the "North-East".

Sunderland's trouble, she said, was that it was out of the way, but through quality and word of mouth the area could overcome such a disadvantage.



A Wessex helicopter which was carrying Rear-Admiral Anthony Whetstone and four others when it had to ditch in the sea being recovered off Weymouth yesterday. The occupants took to a life raft and were picked up by another helicopter.

Dispute with Spain over air crash

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Good quality readouts have been obtained from the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder recovered from the wreckage of the Dan-Air Boeing 727 airliner that crashed at Tenerife killing 146 people on board, Mr Norman Tebbit, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said in a Commons answer yesterday.

"All the evidence relating to this accident is now being evaluated by the accident investigators. An initial appraisal of this evidence indicates that, in all probability, it should be possible to establish the causes of the accident."

"However, a great amount of painstaking work will be necessary before any unequivocal

statement as to the causes can be made."

The airliner on a package holiday flight from Manchester to Los Rodeos airport, in Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, was almost completely destroyed when it flew into the side of a mountain shortly before it was due to land.

Its speed, attitude and other performance details leading up to the moment of impact will have become clear to British and Spanish investigators from the readout of the recorder black box carried in the airliner's tail.

The readout of the cockpit voice recorder will have given the investigators a complete record of what the flight crew said to each other and to the

Spanish air traffic controllers.

It will also have recorded clearly any extraneous cockpit noises, such as stall warnings.

Among the questions the investigators are attempting to answer is why the airliner was using an unusual approach pattern in flying towards the airport. The captain, with 14,000 flying hours, had been to Tenerife many times before and would normally have been directed on a course well away from the mountains.

Mr Tebbit's statement yesterday contained an indication of an argument between Britain and Spain over who was responsible. The British are anxious to clear the crew, and the Spanish to clear the ground controllers.

Holiday flights disrupted again at Luton

Holiday flights from Luton airport were further disrupted last night by industrial action, and there were gloomy predictions for the Bank Holiday weekend. As holidaymakers left up to two hours late, an airport spokesman said: "It could well get worse."

Three hundred manual workers, including baggage handlers, security staff and cleaners, were working to rule over delays in a comparable study, which has held up a pay award.

On Thursday night they staged a lightning strike over the suspension of three colleagues, stranding hundreds of

passengers. It ended when the men were reinstated after a special meeting of Luton Borough Council, which owns the airport.

No flights had been diverted to other airports last night, but airlines said they might move passengers by coach if the delays worsen.

The Automobile Association predicted a "bumper holiday weekend" and the Royal Automobile Club said roads were "choked-black" after a fairly slow start.

Main routes out of London were all congested, especially on the M4 westwards, the M1 northwards, the M11 to Cam-

bridge, and the A3 at Guildford.

Traffic jams eight miles long were reported near Winchester. In Essex holidaymakers bound for the east coast were nose-to-tail on the A12 at the Chelmsford bypass, and on the A13 at Purfleet. In the Midlands traffic in Worcester town centre was at a standstill, with more congestion on the M5.

Most roads in the Snowdonia national park were open, but some country tracks were closed.

Drivers bound for Devon and Cornwall were warned to expect long delays on the M5 at Taunton Deane, Somerset, because of roadworks.

IPC talks on return to work founder

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Talks aimed at settling the five-week journalists' dispute at the International Publishing Corporation, ended last night after disagreement over a formula for a return to work.

The 1,500 journalists who work for IPC Magazines and IPC Business Press were dismissed on April 25 after they refused to withdraw sanctions over a pay claim.

Several rounds of talks this week failed to find an agreement and day-long talks yesterday reached deadlock over how much the journalists should receive for the period of their suspensions.

They claim they have been working normally and producing editorial matter for the magazines, but that the management had refused to approve it for printing.

The dispute has cost IPC about four million lost copies each week of magazines including *Woman*, *Woman's Realm* and *Family Weekly*, in addition to disruption at the Butterworth and Hamlyn publishing houses.

The management's latest offer was that the journalists would be paid only for the week in April during which they were suspended.

In return the group wants to use the editorial matter that has been produced during the dispute and will discuss with the journalists the question of

payment for the first 12 days of this month after the return to work.

IPC has also offered to put the journalists' pay for this period into a special fund. The journalists, members of the National Union of Journalists, say they should be paid for the whole period of suspension, but if talks on the 12 days' pay result in acceptance of the management's position, the money can be deducted from future pay cheques.

The central issue in the dispute, a 32 per cent pay claim, has been blurred by the argument over a formula for a return to work, but both sides are agreed that further pay talks should be held after a resumption of work.

However, the management made clear last night that any improvement on its "final" 17 per cent to 18 per cent offer would be only marginal and would not lead to anything like a further 5 per cent.

The NUJ claim was for an increase in basic salary from £4,900 to £6,400. The management's reinstatement offer will be put to NUJ chapel (office branch) meetings next week, but last night Mr Colin Bourne, a member of the union executive, was not hopeful of its being accepted.

"The feeling of the membership last time they met was overwhelmingly against a return to work unless they received full pay for the period they have been sacked," Mr Bourne said.

Shots at Armagh gunmen

From Our Own Correspondent

Two gunmen were injured in a shooting incident in south Armagh when the Army opened fire on men acting suspiciously. The incident, near Killynagassag Bridge, blown up earlier this month by the IRA, happened late on Thursday.

Life jail for 'brutal, cunning and evil man'

Sentence of life imprisonment was passed by Mr Justice Sheldon at Bristol Crown Court yesterday on Ronald Salles, aged 44, a building labourer, who was found guilty of murdering Anita Quayle, aged 16.

The jury, after a retirement of 70 minutes, found that Mr Salles, of no fixed address, had stabbed the girl to death in a frenzied attack in her mother's flat and left her semi-naked, gagged and mutilated body sprawled over a lounge bed.

It was disclosed that Mr Salles had been released from Broadmoor hospital, where he had spent 16 years for rape, only a few months before the killing.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Sheldon told Mr Salles: "I have no hesitation whatever in describing you as a brutal, cunning, compassionate and evil man."

"As to your release from Broadmoor Hospital in November, 1978, I say nothing. It is only if I have insufficient knowledge of the circumstances, but some risk to the public is always involved in such decisions."

But having regard to your previous record and now your latest convictions, I have no

doubt that a very, very time must elapse before you are set free again, if it were to happen."

The judge said he would not recommend a minimum period that should be before his release, but that a transcript of the proceedings should be sent to authorities responsible for Salles's custody.

The jury were told that Salles was recovering from chicken-pox when Mr Salles had taken him to the Arundel Crescent, Plymouth, several occasions, for body on returning home.

She had been stabbed three times, the judge said, in the heart. He was cut and a knife was down her abdomen. A red knicker had been into her mouth and

Mr Salles entered a plea of alibi during the trial, claiming that he had a girl alive in mid-morning when he returned, he had been killed. Because a police record he paid

an educationally sound record, with the residents.

Mr Salles's decision that Essex would have ment earlier plans, by the Labour government to turn the school into a selective comprehensive school in September as originally planned.

On May 16 Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, rejected a proposal from the Conservative-controlled county council to turn the school into a "bilateral" school, with a partly selective and partly non-selective intake of pupils.

Mr Carlisle said he was not satisfied that the proposal was

Plan for selective school to go comprehensive up

By Our Education Correspondent

The schools subcommittee of Essex County Council's education committee decided yesterday to recommend that the selective Gilbert Technical High School, in Colchester, should become a comprehensive school in September as originally planned.

On May 16 Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, rejected a proposal from the Conservative-controlled county council to turn the school into a "bilateral" school, with a partly selective and partly non-selective intake of pupils.

Mr Carlisle said he was not satisfied that the proposal was

Strike threat at Labour Party headquarters

Labour's national headquarters faces a strike threat by researchers and some secretarial staff next month unless the management improves its 20 per cent wage increase offer.

The threat was made yesterday after a meeting of Transport and General Workers' Union members, many of whom work in the research department. They decided that unless the management went nearer to meeting the claim for a 32 per cent increase they would strike from June 2.

Musicians in to organize BBC strike

By Our Arts Reporter

A meeting to plan called by the Musicians' Union against the BBC for its is to take place in the union's headquarters tomorrow.

It will be the first meeting from all the branches, representing whole range of music the pit at Covent Garden London Studio Play have come together, roof.

Correction

Mr John Bowden, of Mr Derek Robinson, British Leyland shop was refused leave to claim for unfair dismissal. Mr Robinson, 30, of 1,023.8 millibars, (fall 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Labour view 'ignored by press'

By Our Political Reporter

The political debate in Britain was being set up as a struggle between the Government and the unions, Dr David Owen, opposition spokesman on energy, said last night, in a speech designed to clarify the separate functions of the Labour Party and the unions within the broad spectrum of the Labour movement.

He cited the "most encouraging features of the evidence" of five main unions on the Labour commission of inquiry. They recognized, he said, the need to safeguard the party's position and advocated the special position of the Parliamentary Labour Party within the party's structure.

Those unions were the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, the General and Municipal Workers Union, the National Union of Railwaymen, and the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff.

Dr Owen, addressing a meeting in Radstock, Avon, said Mrs Margaret Thatcher, at her twice weekly question time, was using Parliament not to debate the real issues but for emotive comment on the trade unions.

"The detailed parliamentary debates covering the Labour Opposition's line is either ignored, overlooked, or dismissed as irrelevant," he said.

Cardinal Hume in US

Cardinal Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, began a five-week tour of the United States yesterday during which he will carry out engagements to mark the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of St Benedict, founder of the Benedictine Order to which the Cardinal belongs.

Police keep an ear cocked for flutes and crescendos

By Stewart Tandler

As far as Lusciana megaryncha is concerned the instructions to officers at Addlestone police station, Surrey, are simply to observe and report. The name sounds exotic for an intelligence gathering operation, but for once there is a host of detail on the subject.

The nightingale, the files say, favours woodland and keeps to a diet of insects, fruit and berries. Any difficulties over identification can be solved, by reference to a tape recording.

After all, ornithologists say the untrained ear can confuse the melodies of the nightingale with lesser species such as the blackbird and mistakes over identification have caused policemen enough trouble.

Parents and two children die in house blaze

Four people died in a fire at a detached house in Dorchester Road, Poole, Dorset, yesterday, despite attempts by neighbours and firemen to save them.

They were Mr Andrew Allison, aged 47, Mrs Irene Allison, aged 41, his wife, and two of their five children, Colin, aged 18, and Graham, aged six.

A daughter, Helen, aged 14, spent the night with friends. One fireman was treated in hospital, but was later allowed to leave.

A fireman found in the garage was raised to an upstairs back window, where the younger boy was believed to be sleeping, but as the glass shattered the rescuer was forced back by smoke and flames.

Mr John Bowler, aged 37, a neighbour, said: "Flames were engulfing the house. It was an inferno. The fire brigade got here fairly quickly but there was nothing they could do."

8 years' custody for boy, 16, in theft sentences

Sentences varying from eight years' detention to borstal training were imposed on five youths, the eldest aged 18 and the youngest 15, when they were convicted at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday, of being involved in 13 robberies in Neasden, London.

They were Alvin Fitzroy Muschette, aged 18, who admitted eight offences of robbery and was sentenced to five and a half years imprisonment; Nigel Neil Wisdom, aged 17, convicted of 12 burglaries, sentenced to seven years imprisonment; Timothy Lennon, aged 17, convicted of 10 robberies, sentenced to six years; convicted of 13 robberies, a boy aged 16 was sentenced to eight years' detention; and a boy aged 15 was found guilty of two robberies and was sentenced to borstal training.

Tree council's warning of drought danger

An appeal to local authorities, landowners and the general public to ensure that young trees are kept well watered during dry weather was made yesterday by the Countryside Commission and the Tree Council.

Newly planted trees, especially in remote areas, were already suffering, it was said. A continued drought, now or later in the summer, could spell disaster. A good soaking was needed. Washing-up water or bath water would do.

Monk murdered

Father Paul Edward Hull, a Benedictine monk, aged 87, was beaten to death in the presbytery next to St Ethelbert's and St Gertrude's Roman Catholic Church, Ramsgate, yesterday. His housekeeper, Mrs Maude Lollent, aged 73, who was also attacked, was taken unconscious to hospital.

Closure threat to papers

From Richard Ford

The morning newspaper in Northern Ireland, the *News-Letter*, and its stablemate, the *Sunday News*, are threatened with closure, the owners said yesterday when they laid off 140 workers without pay.

A further 150 salaried staff, including journalists and advertising sales staff, will continue to be paid but are not expected to report for work.

Those are part of the latest moves by the company in a dispute with the National Graph-

ical Association over a local agreement on new technology and a shift pattern.

"I cannot make up my mind yet as to how long we can survive, but without production and without there being publications, I would say our days are limited," Captain William Henderson, chairman of Century Newspapers Ltd, said.

Mr William Meelan, secretary of the Northern Ireland branch of the NGA, said: "We have been threatened like this before and are not worried now."

Identical twins, similar lives

This weekend two English housewives complete an extraordinary week in the United States. They are identical twins, separated at birth and raised without either knowing about the other sister. Now that they have met again, as part of a study in Minneapolis of sepa-

rated twins, they have discovered an uncomfortable number of coincidences in their lives. Many other twins in the study also show strange coincidences. In *The Sunday Times* tomorrow Peter Watson reports on the results of an experiment which has been described as "spooky".

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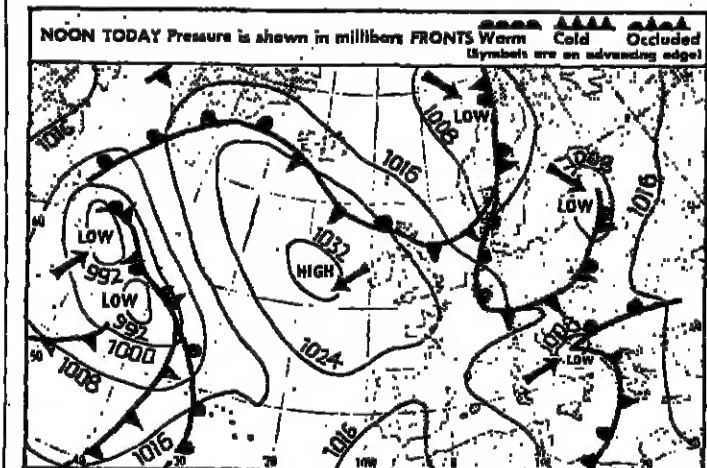
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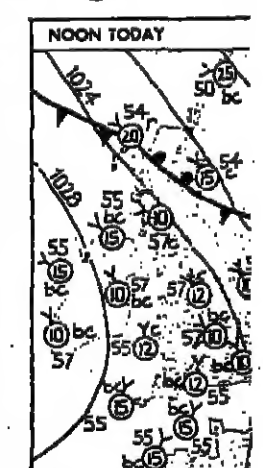
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Today		Tomorrow	
Sun rises: 4.57 am	Sun sets: 8.39 pm	Sun rises: 4.57 am	Sun sets: 8.39 pm
Moon rises: 3.7 am	Moon sets: 3.4 pm	Moon rises: 3.7 am	Moon sets: 3.4 pm
Full moon: May 29		Full moon: May 29	
Lighting up: 9.29 pm to 4.26 am.		Lighting up: 9.30 pm to 4.25 am.	
High water: London Bridge, 11.48 am.		High water: London Bridge, 11.48 am.	
Low water: Avonmouth, 4.40 am.		Low water: Avonmouth, 4.40 am.	
3.37 pm, 5.50 pm, Hull, 2.48 am, 5.50 pm.		3.37 pm, 5.50 pm, Hull, 2.48 am, 5.50 pm.	
2.57 pm, 5.71 pm, Liverpool, 8.14 am, 7.44 pm.		2.57 pm, 5.71 pm, Liverpool, 8.14 am, 7.44 pm.	
A cool N to NW airstream covers the United Kingdom.		A cool N to NW airstream covers the United Kingdom.	



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2.57 pm, 5.71 pm, Liverpool, 8.14 am, 7.44 pm.		2.57 pm, 5.71 pm, Liverpool, 8.14 am, 7.44 pm.	

A cool N to NW airstream covers the United Kingdom.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, Central S, SW, NW, Central N, England, Midlands, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man

N Ireland: Rather cloudy, dry with bright or sunny intervals; wind N to W, light to moderate; max temp 14° to 16°C (57° to 61°F).

SE, E, NE, England, East Angles: Rather cloudy, dry with bright or sunny intervals; wind N to NW, moderate; max temp 12° to 15°C (54° to 59°F), cooler near coasts.

Channel Islands: Dry with sunny periods; wind N to NE, moderate; max temp 12° to 15°C (54° to 59°F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain at times, becoming more persistent with hill and coastal fog patches; wind NW, fresh; max temp 10° to 13°C (50° to 55°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: N and E rather cloudy at times with a little drizzle; S and W mostly dry with some sunny intervals; rather cool generally.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strathclyde, Bristol: Wind N, fresh to moderate.

English Channel (E): Wind N moderate or fresh; sea slight to moderate.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, moderate or fresh; sea moderate.

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THE NEWS

Councils want talks on
Clegg reopened
£130m mistake

Authorities have tried to reopen negotiations with the 18 per cent Clegg for teachers. They are to the independent the Burnham Committee negotiating teachers' pay, asking for a full meeting on either side of the call for a meeting must convene 14 days. In their on Thursday to Mr. the Burnham chair- authorities said a meeting to con- siderations of the on teachers' pay, g commission has it made a £130m comparability study, recommended rises 9.2 per cent when have suggested only. The Prime Minis- up an inquiry to w that error was

was reached be- authorities and England and Wales before the Clegg discovered that the agreed award should be the National Union of Teachers. May 17, circumstances the firm would then have sent the Secretary of Education and Science, Mr. R. Carr-Saunders, to be obliged on re- agreement to ask order from Par- liament the award. because of the con- vention of the Clegg award has decided agreement for the es to transmit the Secretary of he calls a meeting negotiations on the could not be re-

Carlisle praises local
m in education

"The greater the variety there is in provision, the more local initiatives, the greater the chance for every part of the system to learn something new and to adopt ideas which have worked elsewhere." Mr. Carlisle, Secretary for Education and yesterday, visited in local id in individual ies of schools, and that initiatives diled from the ssity was en- tion Sixth Form Hampshire, Mr. hat he had learnt first year in edu- cation above all, ery few certain

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ment curbs on the in weedkillers as inadequate the National Union al and Allied union said that it e to campaign for by government enabled ministers ximum permitted substance to a previous rate, highly dangerous in 2, 4, 5-T weed are sold for use d forests and on um dioxin level uw be 0.01 milli- gram of weedkiller, ment labora- that weedkillers do not exceed is. dding about with mixed levels is speaking ahead d. "We do not a safe level. We the questions to s, but on animals, far suggest the

Prince Andrew moves
Prince Andrew has completed a course in a crew survival training at the Royal Navy air base, HMS Daedalus, at Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire. He is moving to RAF Leeming, in North Yorkshire, for a flying course.

'cause of Amoco Cadiz wreck'

The angle of the tow and the strength of the towing chain were important when taken together, Mr Wiswall said. The chain was probably older than its attributed age of two years. There was no evidence that any survey had ever been conducted on it. Mr Wiswall, in his summing-up speech, pleaded for Captain Pasquale Bardari, the Italian master of the tug, to have his captain's licence restored. The licence was suspended after an interim report was issued by the board of inquiry last year. He is still employed Amoco; but he cannot sail and has been awaiting trial in a French court since the disaster two years ago. If he is found guilty of negligently polluting the Breton beaches he faces a two-year prison sentence or a £10,000 fine. Captain Bardari has suffered enough, Mr Wiswall said. The one main criticism made of him by the board's interim report, that he did not issue a general distress signal, could perhaps be explained to some extent. Captain Weimart had told him

Peach jury
is given
choice of 3
verdicts

By Nicholas Timmins
The jury at the inquest on Mr Blair Peach was told yesterday that it was its job to decide whether Mr Peach was unlawfully killed by the special patrol group. Dr John Burton, the West London coroner, in his summing-up offered the jury three possible verdicts for consideration when it retires on Tuesday morning. The options, he said, were unlawful killing, manslaughter or an open verdict. He told the jury of five men and four women at the coroner's court at Hammersmith that they must not be influenced by publicity. Every witness who has made a statement gave their evidence after they had been told that Mr Peach had been murdered by the special patrol group while quietly going home after the demonstration. That must not influence you. But you have got to decide whether it influenced them.

Mr Peach, aged 33, a teacher from New Zealand, died after the demonstration against the National Front at Southall, west London, in April last year. Earlier in his summing-up Dr Burton said that a statement that Mr Peach had been killed by the patrol group after the demonstration finished had been broadcast published the day afterwards. If that was not true, the damage was "absolutely incalculable."

Yesterday he told the inquest that Mr Peach was on his way home and there was an unprovoked attack by the police. He was unlawfully killed. The same was true if he was hit by a demonstrator, or if he was not doing anything unlawful and was hit by the police without lawful excuse, or if the police were angry at injuries to their colleagues and were taking revenge on the crowd. Of the manslaughter verdict, he said that the jury had to decide whether the police used reasonable force, and was Mr Peach one of the rioters? None of the police said he had hit Mr Peach. "Even if you decide that they used more force than they admit, it is still for you to decide whether it was reasonable."

Lecturer told to
name protesters

Mr Michael Downing, a college lecturer, who has been taking part in sit-in protests against Hertfordshire's cuts in the library service, was ordered by Mr Justice Stephen Brown in the High Court yesterday to name fellow demonstrators. The order against Mr Downing, of Essex Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, was granted on the application of Hertfordshire County Council, which is suing him and others who have taken part in "read-ins".

Anti-smoking chewing gum
to be issued on prescription

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent
Nicotine chewing gum is to become available on prescription next month as an aid for people who wish to give up smoking. It is being marketed under the brand name, Nicorette, by Lundbeck Ltd. of Luton, having received approval from the Committee on the Safety of Medicines. It is not yet known whether the National Health Service will pay for the cost of the gum when an applicant to the Department of Health's Committee on Borderline Substances, which rules in such cases, is still under consideration. The application is being supported by Dr Michael Russell of the Addiction Research Unit, at Maudsley Hospital, south London, where the gum has been used in clinical trials for six years. Dr Russell said yesterday that the trial had been very encouraging. "We are finding a long-term success rate of about 40 per cent at the end of one year, which is double that obtained by any other method. It is also cost-effective because it is easy to prescribe and takes only five minutes to re-prescribe."



Militant Scottish Protestants carrying posters accusing the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Robert Runcie, (second from right) of being a sympathizer with the Roman Catholic Church when he visited Edinburgh yesterday.

Runcie hope
of advancing
ecumenism

From Our Correspondent
Edinburgh
The need for unity among the Christian churches was emphasized yesterday by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Robert Runcie, when he attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. He made three key points in his address: that the church's primary concern should not be for itself but for God and the world He sent His son to save; that its mission to God's world was a shared one and they must help each other to pursue it; and that if they could hold on to those and build up every opportunity for personal trust and keep in touch in every possible way, there would be surprise in store for "ecumenical cynics".

Miss Tutin awarded £6,525
over fall from camel

Miss Dorothy Tutin, aged 49, the actress, was awarded damages of £6,525, plus interest of £992, by Mr Justice Canby in the High Court yesterday over back injuries she received when she fell off a camel at a charity performance. The judge, however, decided that she must pay part of her £7,000 legal costs because "a fairly simple case had been allowed to become complicated." Miss Tutin's fall happened at a camel race for charity at Olympia in 1976. The judge ruled that "Mary Chipperfield Promotions, who supplied the camels, were to blame for the accident and must pay the damages and most of the costs. They had denied liability. Miss Tutin fell off when her camel had raced half way down the arena. The judge said Chipperfield's camel handler was negligent in letting Miss Tutin's camel go before she was ready."

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Mr recent meeting with the Pope in Accra at the start of a brief African tour served, among other purposes, to underline the fact that the needs of today are too great to waste Christian energy in pursuing old rivalries," he said. "In our joint statement we stressed the need to collaborate more ear-

estly in a common witness to Christ. "Such a witness will take many different forms, but it is essential that friendship and trust between Christians of different traditions is established if joint witness is to flourish".

Mr Roger Cawley, Miss Mary Chipperfield's husband, said: "I am disappointed with the result. I don't know if the camels will be used again in charity races."

the best to proclaim the love of God to all humanity, to express in actions God's love for the oppressed and God's judgment on wrongdoing, and to be a living sign in a divided world of that reconciliation." The assembly was told by the Reverend John Lang, chairman of the social responsibility committee: "We have to recognize that alcoholism and alcohol abuse are still the scourge of Scotland and a source of shame to our people." He called for remedial action by the Government: a new effort in health education and the elimination of mass media advertising. The committee is urging support for a campaign to make non-smoking general.

Crown jury-vetting guide 'naive'

The Attorney General's guidelines on jury vetting are "touchingly naive" and fail to deter people from concealing convictions and sitting on juries, Mr Justice Michael Davies said in the Court of Appeal yesterday. He said that the guidelines assumed that the prospective jurors would be so frightened by a £400 fine that they would disclose a conviction that disqualified them from jury service. Since the Juries Act, 1974, there had been only one conviction for concealing a conviction, involving a £10 fine. The judge asked: "Is anybody taking the slightest notice of section 20 (of the Attorney General's guidelines)?" He said: "No. It is a dead letter." The guidelines needed revision. The Attorney General would have to decide whether to approve checks of jurors to see if they should be disqualified; or he would have to accept the fact that all over the country there were likely quite

frequently to be disqualified people on juries. Mr Justice Michael Davies and Mr Justice Balcombe are sitting with Lord Justice Lawton in the first case in which a conviction is being challenged on the ground that the jury was vetted. Mr Vincent Mason, aged 43, an antique dealer, of Salford, Greater Manchester, is seeking leave to appeal against conviction last May at Northampton Crown Court of burglary of four country houses. The vetting, which led to the prosecution objecting to two jurors on grounds, it is claimed, that should not disqualify them, was unlawful and unconstitutional and led to a "material irregularity" in the course of the trial, it has been argued. Mr Justice Michael Davies said the Attorney General had criticized the jury vetting by Northamptonshire police. He added: "There has been a great deal of public attention paid to this matter and a great deal of muddled thinking from people who have not got all the

'Old guard' beat 'young Turks' in High Court

A move to prevent the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) from notifying members of a rule-amendment meeting in London on June 21 was rejected in the High Court yesterday. Mr Justice Slade dismissed an application by a group of "young Turks" on the union's executive committee seeking to change the date because it clashed with the RSPCA's annual meeting in Manchester. They had pointed out that about 150 BUAV members were also members of the RSPCA. They alleged that the date of the BUAV meeting had been engineered by the "old guard" of the union as part of a policy to divide and rule. The judge said the case arose out of an interminable dispute between new members, the young Turks, and the longer-established members, the old guard. Skirmishing between the two groups came to a head at a meeting of the executive committee on April 26, when it was proposed that an extraordinary general meeting should be held on June 21 to make amendments to the union's articles of association. The amendments would lengthen the period of membership required before a member was eligible as a candidate for the executive committee and principal officers. The young Turks, led by Mrs. Margaret Redgrave, wanted to be able to attend both meetings, and the clash of dates presented them with an invidious choice, the judge said. It was impossible to say on the present evidence that the executive committee, which had discretionary powers, had acted arbitrarily or capriciously.

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Boroughs given
leave to
fight GLC plan

Greater London Council's plan to transfer about 55,000 houses to seven London boroughs was challenged in the High Court. The seven boroughs are Camden, Haringey, Brent, Hackney, Lambeth, Lewisham and Hounslow. They were given leave by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court to apply for a court order cancelling the GLC's request to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, for his consent to the transfer of the properties. Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, for the boroughs, told Lord Justice Waller and Mr Justice Park that the proposed transfer was an important policy change by the GLC, which wanted to divest itself of almost its entire stock of 150,000 houses. The action being brought by the seven boroughs would not affect other councils, who had agreed terms for taking over GLC houses, he said. The question to be argued was whether the GLC was legally entitled to transfer the properties by ministerial order.

WEST EUROPE

France's nuclear deterrent reinforced

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, May 23

The French nuclear deterrent was substantially reinforced today when the first battery of nine strategic missiles equipped with one megaton thermonuclear warheads became operational. They are based on the Plateau d'Albion in Haute-Provence.

M. Yvon Bourges, the Defence Minister, was present as a crew of seven men, in bright orange overalls, lowered the 9 ft high, 4 ft wide thermonuclear warhead onto an S3 missile.

This primary, the potential power of the French deterrent, composed of five nuclear submarines, 50 Mirage 4 bombers, and the missiles on the Plateau d'Albion, up to a total strike power of 75 megatons. A second battery of nine S3 missiles will become operational before the end of 1982.

The new S3 missiles are not only more powerful than the S2 type which came into service in 1972, they also have a greater range: at 2,100 miles as against 1,360; a little extra which makes a great deal of difference.

They are also less vulnerable to the radiation and electromagnetic impulses of enemy anti-missiles.

The S3 is made up of the first stage of the S2 with a reinforced second stage. The nuclear warhead is the same as the one with which the M20 missiles on all French nuclear submarines are equipped.

The programme of modernization of the strategic missiles in Provence was begun in 1974. When completed in 1985 it will have cost some 2,000 francs (\$208m). When the sixth strategic nuclear submarine is operational in that year with 16 M4 multiple warheads, the total strike power of the French nuclear deterrent will be increased to 95 megatons.

The missile silos, which are widely dispersed, are built to withstand anything but a direct hit. To destroy all of them within one hundredth of a second, as the radiation of the explosion would do, is an impossible task and would substantially reduce their force.

The Defence Minister declared today that a fourth component of mobile nuclear might be added to the existing three in the French nuclear force within the next two decades.

The French Government has also ordered studies in the production of a neutron bomb and a decision on this is likely to be taken by the National Defence Council headed by President Giscard d'Estaing in July. If it decides to go ahead (and the Chiefs of Staff are favourable to the idea), the forces could be equipped with the neutron bomb within five years.

EEC will sell subsidized butter to the Russians

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, May 23

The EEC has decided to permit the sale of up to 70,000 tonnes of surplus EEC butter to the Soviet Union this year at heavily-subsidized prices. Every tonne exported will carry a subsidy of 1995, paid for by the EEC taxpayers.

This decision is considered by a majority of member-states to be in accord with the position adopted by EEC foreign ministers last January in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The ministers agreed then that they would not increase food supplies to Russia to fill gaps left by the American embargo, but said that they would maintain "traditional trade flows". An export volume of 70,000 tonnes would represent the average of the last two years and most member-states regard this as reasonable.

But Britain thinks account should also be taken of earlier years when no butter was exported to Russia. On that basis

the EEC has decided to permit the sale of up to 70,000 tonnes of surplus EEC butter to the Soviet Union this year at heavily-subsidized prices. Every tonne exported will carry a subsidy of 1995, paid for by the EEC taxpayers.

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Second launching of European rocket ends in the Atlantic

From Ian Murray
Kourou, French Guiana, May 23

Europe's second space rocket splashed down ignominiously after the Atlantic take-off from a much delayed launch today carrying with it the hopes of establishing the Ariane as a reliable satellite launcher.

The trouble-free 33-day count down for Ariane 02 proved a mere deception and today's launch was dogged with problems from 58 seconds before the scheduled lift-off time of 11.30 GMT.

Even so it took off with only 21 seconds left of the three-hour firing "window" allowed for putting one of its experimental satellites into orbit.

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the satellite on board Ariane 02 should have been safely in orbit the flight directors came out of the control room to tell the little they knew of what had gone wrong. But so many things had happened during the morning that the planned flight of Ariane 03 in November may well have to be postponed.

Everything seemed to be going perfectly at first light. The seasonal May rain clouds were high and the final countdown was running smoothly until the 58-second mark.

Then, one of the red lights in the control room flashed on to say that the launch pad had a fault. At that stage the commentator was obstinately optimistic. "It is fairly normal in this kind of operation," he said. Apparently all that had happened was that a computer had over-reacted to a check out message and the take off was rescheduled for 44 minutes later. The grey clouds began to roll in from the Amazon rain forest.

"It is," said the commentator, "with some emotion that we approach the 58 seconds from lift off point." He just had time to make his statement, passing on to the next, when the red light flashed on again.

It was to do so on two further occasions over the next two hours. Either because the computers believed they had found a fault or because the cloud ceiling had fallen too low.

When the Ariane finally lifted off, the commentator was cautiously pessimistic. As people clapped, he said: "It is just over 60 seconds later, on the way out from the fourth floor control room at the space centre most people had to walk downstairs. The lift was not working."

Passengers are catapulted beneath hill-top villages and past goggling Arab taxi drivers until they are dumped like punchbags on the little patch of scrub in Haris that passes for a helicopter pad.

But it is not difficult to see why the United Nations likes to use its helicopters—even though Major Haddad's Christian Militia destroyed more than half the fleet with shell fire as it stood on the ground at Enn Naoura.

The roads of southern Lebanon are pitted with foot-deep craters.

The highways match the social status of the Shia peasants whose stony fields border the roads and whose expensive protection falls to the United Nations.

Palestinians regularly try to infiltrate southwards through the folded hills west of Haris while Major Haddad's militia try—and regularly fail—to breach the Dutch lines near Majdal Sun.

The Dutch confront both sides with 800 men, 14 armoured troop carriers, six heavy mortars, and a sophisticated and much talked-of possession called a tube-launched optically-tracked wire-guided missile.

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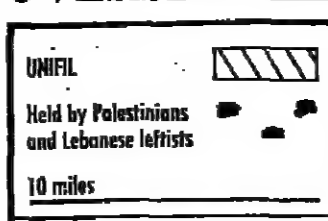
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From Robert Fisk
Haris, South Lebanon, May 23

It takes just over 15 minutes to fly from the United Nations headquarters at Enn Naoura to the Dutch battalion operations room at Haris, but if you travel with the United Nations' Italian Army helicopter crews it will seem a lot longer.

They have a habit of performing aerobics on the way, flying their machines at high speed along ravines.

Passengers are catapulted beneath hill-top villages and past goggling Arab taxi drivers until they are dumped like punchbags on the little patch of scrub in Haris that passes for a helicopter pad.

But it is not difficult to see why the United Nations likes to use its helicopters—even though Major Haddad's Christian Militia destroyed more than half the fleet with shell fire as it stood on the ground at Enn Naoura.

The roads of southern Lebanon are pitted with foot-deep craters.

The highways match the social status of the Shia peasants whose stony fields border the roads and whose expensive protection falls to the United Nations.

Palestinians regularly try to infiltrate southwards through the folded hills west of Haris while Major Haddad's militia try—and regularly fail—to breach the Dutch lines near Majdal Sun.

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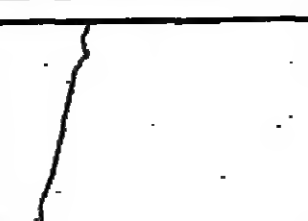
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OVERSEAS

Turkey preoccupies Greek politicians

From Mario Modiano
Athens, May 23

The parliamentary debate on the new Government's policy towards Greece showed that the Greek political leadership is far more obsessed with the future of relations with Turkey than with any of the other problems that beset this country.

The debate, unusually lively and concise, lasted three days. It was due to end at midnight tonight with a vote on a motion of confidence in the Government under Mr George Rallis, the new Prime Minister, was expected to win comfortably.

The basic disagreement between Government and Opposition that emerged on foreign policy was whether the Greek-Turkish dialogue, on the Aegean and Cyprus should continue or not.

The Prime Minister, in his statement, renewed the Greek proposal for "Turkey for a serious dialogue" at any level, based on international law and practice. Unresolved issues could then go to international arbitration.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, leader of the Socialist Movement, the main opposition party, said the dialogue was useless. He added: "We asked nothing of Turkey. The dialogue would only be to determine what we would give to Turkey."

Turkey is claiming a larger share of responsibility and dedication in the Aegean sea. It Rallis said there were two ways of solving differences: rough dialogue or through arbitration. "We are ready to fight if we are forced on us, but not without first trying a dialogue. Conversations and concessions are two different things."

Opposition leaders argued that the intercommunal dialogue in Cyprus simply served Turkey's aim to secure the flow of massive aid from the West.

Papandreu accused Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, of favouring the Cyprus talks have been held, of deliberately favouring the Turkish positions.

The Prime Minister said it was his Government's policy to ensure the military reintegration of Greece in NATO which Turkey was blocking. The Greek link with NATO, he added, was a prerequisite for a renewal of the agreement on American bases in Greece. Another prerequisite was the maintenance of the balance of power between Greece and Turkey.

World's largest aircraft to be dismantled

From Ivar Davis
Los Angeles, May 23

The "Spruce Goose", the world's largest aircraft which flew only once in 1947 with its builder and creator, the millionaire Howard Hughes, at the controls, is to be dismantled and put on display in nine museums throughout the United States.

The eight-engine, plywood flying boat, the biggest wing span of any aircraft, as designed to hold 700 troops. It will be taken out of hangar where it has remained for more than 30 years.

It was cut up, Mr Fred Lewis, a spokesman for the Summa Corporation said. "The decision to do this was emotional one for all of us involved," Mr Lewis said, "we wanted to ensure the flying boat was displayed with dignity."

The Californian city of Long Beach wants to turn the hangar, over the Spruce Goose, into an airport. The city has been offered a site for a new airport, but it could not afford to move and maintain the aircraft.

Chinese Catholics back the regime

Peking, May 23.—Chinese Catholic clergy have related total allegiance to the communist regime, its anti-economic policy and their own independence from the Vatican, their first synod for 18 years, the New China News Agency reported.

The declaration, at yesterday's opening session, came after a slight thawing of relations between Peking and Rome.

Observers said the statements were also in line with previous positions by the official clergy



President Carter about to alight from a helicopter which flew him close to the Mount St Helens volcano to see the devastation.

Mr Mugabe emphasizes need to reopen Beira oil pipeline

From Nicholas Ashford
Beira, May 23

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, today emphasized "the absolute necessity" of resuming oil supplies as soon as possible through the Luanfeng pipeline between the Mozambique port of Beira and the Frelimo oil refinery at Umtali in eastern Zimbabwe.

The pipeline has been shut for 12 years following the imposition of sanctions against the former white Rhodesian government of Mr Ian Smith.

Mr Mugabe also emphasized the need to get larger quantities of Zimbabwean goods passing through Beira again. Beira used to be Zimbabwe's main port until Mozambique closed its border with Rhodesia in 1976. The border was reopened last January.

The Zimbabwe Prime Minister was speaking at the end of a five-hour meeting with President Samora Machel and senior members of the Mozambique Government. It was the first

meeting between the two men in Mozambique since Zimbabwe became independent.

For Mr Mugabe it was an emotional return to a country where he had been provided with sanctuary for the past five years and which had given him Zim's guerrilla army invaluable support during the war against the white-dominated government in Salisbury.

A beaming Mr Mugabe, who was greeted with a garland of flowers and a first public appearance since his flight from Rhodesia, said he would never forget the assistance "which we will never forget". President Machel replied that "Zimbabwe's liberation means liberation for all of us."

Today's talks were, in Mr Mugabe's words, designed to provide the basis whereby Zimbabwe and Mozambique "can try to heal the wounds of the past together. He placed great emphasis on the economic and human loss that Mozambique had suffered because of its support for his organization during the recent guerrilla war.

During the last four years Rhodesian forces made more than 350 raids against targets in Mozambique. Many of them, particularly during the period immediately before and during the Lancaster House talks, were against bridges, roads, railways and other strategic targets. The cost of the war damage and losses caused by the closure of the border is independently estimated at more than £300m.

Both Mr Mugabe and President Machel have indicated that they wish to develop close economic ties between their countries, and today's meeting was designed to see how co-operation could be developed in the spheres of transport, energy, trade and telecommunications.

From Zimbabwe's point of view the government is anxious to get trade flowing back through Beira again rather than use the longer route through South African ports. At present the line to Beira has the capacity to take two trains to and from Zimbabwe each day.

Uneasy pre-election truce

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, May 23

The feuding factions within Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party decided today to bury their hatchets for the time being and put on a show of unity as they campaign for a crucial election on June 22.

The uneasy truce was called by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, who said the Democratic Socialist Party and the Komeito—made tentative plans to form an alliance before they contest the election.

Bitter infighting, which almost split the conservatives into two rival parties last

week, was suddenly swept under the carpet today after Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister, declared that he will not attempt to discipline 69 dissidents who overthrew his government.

Speaking to Liberal Democratic Party leaders in Tokyo, Mr Ohira said he had taken the decision to maintain party unity. "We will have to overcome our differences if we want to win the election," he said.

The crisis broke out last week after 69 of the Prime Minister's critics within the ruling party abstained during a vote of no confidence.

Tanzanian party men accused of Amin links

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, May 23

Tanzania's only party have been expelled and detained after being accused of cooperating with former President Idi Amin of Uganda when his forces briefly occupied Tanzanian territory near Bukoba in 1978.

Mr Leopold Kintu, MP for Bukoba Rural, and Ali-Haji Mohamed Sadik, chairman of the Bukoba Rural district of the Chama cha Mapinduzi (Party of the Revolution), were expelled by the party general assembly, held recently at Arusha, Northern Tanzania.

Tanzania's economic policies and had opposed continued involvement in Uganda. They were detained on orders of President Nyerere. Another 13 party members were expelled, but not detained.

The sources say possibly a thousand Tanzanians have recently been detained after protests by troops who have returned after service in Uganda.

Among them are about 30 officers who led a demonstration to State House in Dar es Salaam, complaining that they had not been paid allowances they had been promised while serving in Uganda.

Journalists defy union and stay on strike

Sydney, May 23.—Striking journalists today overwhelmingly rejected their union's recommendation to return to work and end an 11-day strike over extra pay for using electronic editing equipment.

The rejection, by a two to one vote, was a rebuff for union leaders who had been told by publishers that they would make a cash offer to journalists if they returned to normal work.

Employers reaffirmed today that while the strike went on, no offers of increased pay for operating video display units would be made.

Reporters on city newspapers and the Australian Associated Press walked out last week when 29 sub-editors on two Sydney dailies were dismissed for refusing to use the new equipment.

The dismissed men were following the instructions of the Australian Journalists Association which wanted the use of the equipment, demanding an extra \$450 (£25) a week. The union turned down an arbitration award of \$45 a week.

In protracted talks between the union and publishers, the employers agreed to take back the dismissed men and make a firm offer, expected to be in the region of \$420 if journalists returned to work and the ban was lifted.

Now that this has been rejected, the union said it was up to the publishers to break the deadlock.

A spokesman for the publishers said support for the strike, last week at 98 per cent of voting journalists, was dropping.

Most newspapers have continued to publish during the strike using management staff, while striking journalists in Sydney and Brisbane have issued their own newspapers. —Reuter.

In brief

Jewel robbery at Thomson home

Toronto, May 23.—Thieves have stolen jewelry valued at \$250,000 (about £90,000) from the home of Lord Thomson of Fleet after forcing a back door. The house, in the Rosedale area of Toronto, was burgled at lunchtime.

World poker champion

Las Vegas, May 23.—A professional gambler, Mr Stu Ungar, aged 26, collected \$365,000 (about £170,000) when he won the 1980 World Poker Championship.

Ethiopian visit

Addis Ababa, May 23.—Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian head of state, will fly to Sudan for a five-day visit to cement the rapprochement in relations begun this year.

Baseball strike averted

Washington, May 23.—The Major League baseball strike that was due to begin today has been called off, after a last minute settlement was reached this morning, following 20 hours of talks in New York.

Football chief jailed

Salonica, May 23.—The President of the Greek first division football club Iraklis was jailed for three years for attempting to bribe a member of a rival team.

Six die in bomb blast

Dacca, May 23.—Six people were killed and about 40 wounded when two time bombs exploded in Dacca at a public meeting.

Zambian food plan

Lusaka, May 23.—President Kaunda initiated a \$60m (about £30m) 10-year food plan in an effort to raise Zambia's failing agricultural production.

PARLIAMENT, May 23, 1980

England v Scotland football match might be switched from holiday weekend in bid to combat violence

House of Commons

The England versus Scotland international association football match being played tomorrow (Saturday) might be being played on a bank holiday weekend for the first time.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport, announced during a debate on violence on London Transport, that the Football Association and transport operators were considering a change from bank holiday weekend for the annual international and that special football trains might go straight to Wembley, avoiding central London stations.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexley, Seaside), said five people a day were being attacked on average while travelling on London Transport and the figures were increasing.

It was not long ago that the papers reported muggings on New York's underground. But now it was the capital's public transport that had attracted the violence. People feared riding on trains at night.

There had been the disgraceful scenes before and after last year's England v Scotland football match at Wembley; the incident at Southgate station and Finchley Park station. More recently, there had been the riot at Neasden station where 200 teenagers wrecked a train and injured the driver.

About 2,000 people had been attacked last year while travelling on London Transport and this year's figures were expected to be higher.

Those who run our public transport (he said) perform a vital service but they have become favourite targets for delinquents and drug, drugs and motorists.

Eighty-four per cent of the assaults on the Underground last year had been committed by people under 21 years of age.

Police were already equipped with personal radios for use above ground. London Transport were developing a National Council Board of Transport and Transport Services to coordinate the various functions effectively underground.

chilling indictment on life in London in 1980.

Sermons given to the culprits responsible for assaults were appalling.

Asquith turned the travelling public away from public transport and London Transport estimated violence had cost them £500,000 a month in lost revenue.

The country looked at a Government elected on a slogan of law and order platform to prove it not only could but would control the streets and then reduce violence on public transport. There had to be action.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport (Rushcliffe, C) said that there was a duty on the ordinary passenger and ordinary member of staff to behave properly. They must not ignore the fact that while much violence occurred by hoodlums by those who made themselves passengers, a great deal of avoidable violence involved those who caused the ordinary law-abiding passengers.

It is unfortunate (he said) that the intelligent passenger, annoyed at delays, cancellations or fare levels are a source of assaults on staff. Bus and train crews should be encouraged to stand up to the troublemakers.

Over-consumption of alcohol was obviously a major cause of violence, particularly among the young. That was a matter they had to give attention to.

Various methods were being considered by the operators and the Football Association to reduce the problem of violence associated with events like football matches.

The England-Scotland match had given rise to trouble in the past. There was a change of date from the bank holiday weekend in 1981 and the Government of special football trains direct to Wembley to avoid central London stations.

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Implementation of measures would be for the operators and unions but limitation of resources should not prevent desirable measures being implemented in a reasonable time.

The Minister of Transport had indicated that despite restraint on public expenditure, the Government were investing in developments by British Transport Police to set up mobile groups of police as intervention squads where serious problems occurred, to combat late-night violence on public transport, to make a swift response to calls for assistance, to augment routine police control, to deal with potential trouble spots, to assist in the control of football crowds and in the maintenance of public order at demonstrations and other large gatherings where public transport was involved.

The Minister would consider what additional resources might be required for this and other purposes and see how they could be made available.

The Government was urgently considering a draft by-law by the British Railways Board to control the carriage of alcohol on its special trains.

The Government was also reviewing legislation to remove some sentencing restrictions imposed on the Criminal Justice Act 1971, on the extent to which additional resources might be required for this and other purposes and see how they could be made available.

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Royal Assent

House of Lords
Royal Assent was signified to the following Acts: Discretionary Travel for Handicapped Persons (Scotland) and Social Security.

House adjourned for the spring recess, 11.6 am.

New EEC measures to restrict low priced imports of fish

Measures aimed at restricting the flood of low priced imports of fish into the European Community market and improve its ability to act in the case of cut-price imports.

Replies to a motion from members of various political groups calling on the Commission to take protective measures against imports, raise withdrawal prices so as to protect market prices and revise tariff rates for third countries. Mr Burke said the conditions on which the safeguard measure under a Council regulation might be applied were not met in January and February and were met even less at this time of year.

The Commission had received no request from member states to apply the safeguard clause. It was hoped that the Commission would strengthen and that the stabilising development over the last few months should be supported. They must be able to avoid a normally low priced imports compromising the stability of the market and the stabilisation measures undertaken by producer organizations.

The Commission felt this should be done by measures other than application of the Article which gave it power to stop imports.

Other measures were appropriate. The Commission would increase significantly the reference price for imported products. A regulation would be passed by the Commission today.

It would mean an increase of reference price by between six and 25 per cent with an average of ten per cent for frozen fillets of fish and 20 per cent for frozen whole fish.

The Commission was confident this measure would have an immediate effect on the Community market and improve its ability to act in the case of cut-price imports.

The Commission had proposed to the Council of Ministers that the autonomous tariff suspensions, which applied in previous years and in the first months of 1980 for a number of important white fish species like cod, haddock and whiting should be discontinued.

If the Council followed these proposals which were justified in the present supply and demand situation, the full tariff of 15 per cent would be applied as from July 1980 to these imports.

The measures would go a long way towards reassuring Community producers that their legitimate interests would be duly taken into account.

Presenting the motion, Mr

James Provan (North East Scotland, ED) said the industry was on an economic downturn and more boats were being tied up every day. The Commission must raise withdrawal prices with all haste and probably go as far as doubling them.

Mr Kai Nyberg (Denmark, DE) said he supported the motion but was surprised it was initiated by the British who had not been eager to establish a fisheries policy.

Mr Robert Battersby (Humber-side, ED) said the Commission should consider the abolition of national fuel aids for fishing fleets, which differed throughout the Community, and the possibility of providing uniform Community financial aid towards the fleet costs of the whole Community.

The motion was carried.

Sheepmeat vote in June

The motion from the Committee on Agriculture, containing the controversial proposal for a full intervention scheme in the Community's lamb market, was referred to the next session of Parliament. It was debated on Tuesday and the vote on it yesterday had been postponed until today.

Mr James Provan (North East Scotland, ED), the committee rapporteur, first asked that the motion be referred back to the committee for further discussion.

Mr Alan Rogers, a Vice-President of the Parliament, presiding, ruled that this could not be done.

Mr Richard Balf (Inner London South, SD) moved that Parliament should see whether a quorum existed in the chamber before members took a vote on the motion.

A count was made. Only 115 members were present, and Mr Rogers ruled that because the quorum of 25 had not been reached the motion would be referred to the next session of Parliament.

Mr Neil Blaney (Ireland, TD) said MEPs were making fools of themselves just because the British Conservatives did not want the motion to go through.

Peking interpreter seeks asylum in US

Peking, May 23.—A Chinese interpreter who accompanied a delegation to the United States has asked for political asylum, according to Chinese officials.

He is the first Chinese known to have defected while in the United States.

The interpreter, Mr Fu Xukun, aged 38, disappeared on May 12 just before his group was scheduled to fly home, the State Department said. He left his wife, a professor of German, and their daughter in Peking.

The Chinese Government was reported to be uncertain at first what had happened. On inquiry, the Chinese Embassy in Washington was told by the State Department that Mr Fu had been granted asylum.

American diplomats here declined to discuss the case, but they are said to be concerned that it may prove an embarrassment in Chinese-United States relations, which have grown increasingly close since they were normalized last year.

Mr Fu's defection came as a surprise to his family and friends, the sources added. A diplomat familiar with the incident said that Mr Fu had a woman friend who went to the United States two weeks ago to study and that he had given this as the reason for his action.

Last year Mr Fu travelled to six countries in Western Europe and wrote an article about Iceland for a Chinese magazine.

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Mr Callaghan in near-crash on helicopter tour

Hongkong, May 23.—A helicopter carrying Mr James Callaghan, the Labour Party leader, nearly crashed today at the start of a housing estate tour.

"The helicopter was just about to land on a hillside when the pilot experienced a down-draught," Mr Callaghan said at a news conference.

The pilot banked and flew under a bridge. "I warned him that in Britain he could be fined for flying under a bridge," said Mr Callaghan, who talked briefly about his visit to China.

He had discussions with Chairman Hua and with Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Deputy Prime Minister, AP.

Court overturns death sentence on Palestinians

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, May 23

The Turkish military court of appeal today overruled an Ankara martial law tribunal decision passing the death sentence on four Palestinian guerrillas.

The four were sentenced for having killed two Turkish policemen and caused the death of an Egyptian official during their takeover of the Egyptian Embassy in Ankara last July.

The four, who had held a score of people hostage for two days, should not have been tried by the military tribunal but a civilian one, the court ruled.

Saturday Review

The race for the Silk Road

Peter Hopkirk

Chinese complain, and never cannot well deny caravan loads of priceless treasures from the tombs and ruins of Turkistan have been off to foreign museums for ever lost to the world.

Sir Eric Teichman, consular official based in London, after visiting Central Asia in the summer of 1935. It made the "boil with indignation" added.

pillage (or rescue, as you view it) taken place some 20 years ago when excavators in countries, including Afghanistan, descended on this once rich backwater Chinese Empire. During the century they had literally by the ton, wall-paintings, early maps, sculptures and Buddhist treasures, to the disgust of scholars, these are through more than 100 years and institutions in countries on three continents.

Understand this strange contentious episode go back some 2,000 years to the time when Han is extending its frontiers into the vast desert and mountain, as Sinkiang, where King Kang's (618-626) astonishingly rich civilization had taken root in the oasis towns of the Silk Road, that great highway linking the superpowers of the Far East and the West.

At the crossroads of Asia, the Chinese, Indians, Persians, these thriving of trade and learning, their own unique style of art, known as the "Silk Road" style, was a Chinese lost control, its life-sustaining systems were negated, the caravan traffic and the merchants and the departed.

But another, with their monasteries and temples, towns of the Silk Road, abandoned to the hostile tribes and the Chinese nomads. But in those which legends began to flourish, the dunes of the desert. Some 300 years ago, it was said, filled with treasures and by fierce demons, led in that grim waste Turkic name means and you would come.

The closing years of the nineteenth century, little was paid to the by scholars, either Chinese or western. This was because of its remoteness, protected from by some of the highest mountains and the use of archaeological methods. These sand-enclosed ruins of the Near East, during the 1890s, treasure-hunters probing for ruins among the ruins of the Taklamakan Desert, began to turn up relics, many in unscripted languages, found their way to St Petersburg, they aroused considerable interest among Asiatic scholars. However, the grave robbers of this region had already been plundered, and the treasures were likely to prove to be a fraud.

1895 there appeared a scene from across the sea, a daring and formidably explorer called Stein. He was fascinated by the tales of buried treasures in the Taklamakan Desert, and he set out to find them. He was not merely taking multiple copies of the same text, he was taking away in his huge haul 1,000 or so copies or fragments of the Lotus Sutra, many of them admittedly fine examples of early calligraphy.

Next, to reach Tun-huang, some six months later, was Stein's great French rival Paul Pelliot, then only 27. He too had heard the same rumour as Stein, that the great Buddhist past of "Sodom" as he called it, was in the desert. Stein, however, was in less haste to cross the desert.



Pelliot, who had won the Legion of Honour for gallantry during the siege of the Peking Legation in 1900, was a Chinese scholar of outstanding brilliance. Working by the light of a single candle, and crouching uncomfortably in the tiny space resulting from the removal of Stein's large haul, the Frenchman spent three long and claustrophobic weeks sifting through the dusty bundles at the rate of 1,000 a day, or two a minute.

Thus, although the second-comer, Pelliot left Tun-huang with a priceless collection of Chinese and other early texts. These he had purchased from the Chinese custodian for a mere 200 of the French tax-payer's money.

When Pelliot reached Paris with his great literary trove, his success kindled considerable jealousy among certain other scholars. Indeed, a bitter row soon broke out over them in sinological circles there. One scholar went so far as to claim (without seeing them) that all Pelliot's purchases must be fakes, since it was well known that Stein had entirely emptied the cave of its contents. Not realizing just how brilliant a scholar the young Pelliot was, his principal adversary declared that he had been hoodwinked by local forgers who had merely replenished the cave on Stein's departure.

It was only when scholars began to study them, and Stein disclosed that he had only removed part of the library, that Pelliot was vindicated. (Though not before he had publicly punched the most virulent of his critics.) Today Pelliot's manuscripts from the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas reside in the Bibliothèque Nationale while Stein's are divided between the British Library and the India Office Library, all the Chinese texts being in the former.

But Stein, Pelliot and von Le Coq were not the only archaeologists in the race for the Silk Road treasures. The Russians had by now joined in, and two of them were nearly involved in a gun battle with von Le Coq and his party over the rights to a certain site. Far more interesting, however, were the Japanese.

Officially, like everyone else, they were competing in the archaeological free-for-all. Indeed they had a particular reason for being there and, moreover, for excavating with special zeal. For the Japanese diggers (one could hardly describe them as archaeolo-

gists, so rough and ready were their methods) were of the "Pure Land" Buddhist sect, which traces its origins back to that part of China.

In all, Count Kozui Otani, chief abbot of the sect, and brother-in-law of the Mikado, sent three expeditions to the region. Western scholars, while disdainful of their excavating methods, had no reason to think they were anything other than zealous men in search of their spiritual past. Indeed, they removed large quantities of wall-paintings, sculptures and manuscripts from sites around the Taklamakan, dispatching them, largely unlabelled, in wicker baskets back to Kyoto.

But a veiled hint I received from a Japanese scholar in Tokyo, while researching my book, set me wondering whether there might not be more in their activities than met the eye. In London I visited the India Office Library and began to lead through the so-called "political and secret" files containing British intelligence reports on the region from 1909 onwards.

Almost at once I found what I had hoped for all the way back on the aircraft from Tokyo: detailed evidence that the British authorities believed that these earnest young scholar monks were really Japanese secret agents. Quite what they hoped to find in China's back of beyond is far from clear, as the intelligence chiefs in Simla frankly admitted to the Foreign Office.

Nor were they alone in their suspicions. In a rare exchange of intelligence on this Great Game battlefield, a Russian official in Kashgar told his British counterpart that one member of the two-man Japanese expedition was an army officer and the other a naval officer.

Unknown to the two Japanese they were shadowed, Kim-like, for thousands of miles across Chinese Turkistan by native agents on the British payroll. (No doubt in this politically sensitive region where the British, Russian and Chinese empires met, the Russians were doing the same.) Regular reports on their admittedly curious movements and behaviour were sent from Kashgar, principal listening post for Chinese Central Asia, across the Karakoram Mountains to Sir Francis Younghusband, then British Resident in Kashmir, for onward transmission to Simla and Whitehall.

The evidence for the Japanese really being spies is not, in hindsight, entirely convincing. However, it is too complex to go into here. Sufficient to say, it partly rested on the fact that their treatment of the natives was more consistent with their being officers than unworried Buddhist monks. But until the Japanese open their secret intelligence files, or the Otani family choose to tell us, just what the count's men were really up to in China must remain a mystery.

But that is not the only mystery involving the Japanese to emerge from the political and secret files. In the winter of 1910-11, a shadowy Englishman turned up on the Silk Road as the somewhat unlikely companion of Zubeiho Tachibana, the Japanese suspected of being a naval officer (since Tachibana claimed to speak no English one wonders how they communicated, although British agents had found English-language military works in Tachibana's tent).

The first the British authorities knew that an Englishman was travelling with one of the Japanese suspects was when a desperate telegram from him reached Kashgar from an oasis farther east reporting that he was gravely ill. It read: "I am suffering from skin disease which has affected all my organs. I can only keep my eyes open for a few minutes at a time. My mouth and throat covered with slime and I cannot swallow any food and very little water." It was simply signed A. O. Hobbs. Perhaps he did not realize that he was suffering from smallpox. Anyway, within a day he was dead, leaving behind him a number of (still) unanswered questions.

Who precisely was he? What was he doing travelling with Tachibana? Puzzlingly, the reports from George Macartney in Kashgar, who buried him there, are silent on these questions, although they briefly describe his lonely funeral at which Tachibana was the sole mourner. Neither can I find any reference to him in the narratives of any other travellers in the region at that time.

If Hobbs remains an unsolved mystery, a conundrum of a different kind was unravelled on the spot by Sir Aurel Stein. Since the year 1895 a steady stream of manuscripts whose sources (as opposed to languages) were quite unknown to scholars had been turning up in Calcutta, at Peshawar and elsewhere.

Indeed, both the British and Russian authorities had instructed their representatives throughout Central Asia to acquire antiquities, particularly manuscripts which were likely to throw light on the region's history, from native dealers. A number of distinguished orientologists, including Dr Rudolf Hoernle of Britain, had devoted years of study to these, but without succeeding in deciphering any of the documents in unknown scripts.

Stein, however, had long doubted the authenticity of the texts and determined to investigate their source on the first of his expeditions in 1900. Many of the manuscripts had been supplied by a certain Akhun, a native-treasure-hunter based in Khotan. Eventually, with the aid of a friendly Chinese *amban*, or magistrate, Stein managed to track down this elusive individual.

At first Akhun insisted to Stein that he was merely a dealer who had acquired the manuscripts from others. Finally Stein trapped him into confessing the truth: he ran a small factory in the desert where "ancient books" were turned out by him and his accomplices for gullible foreigners, including George Macartney and Nikolai Petrovsky, the British and Russian representatives in Kashgar.

Warning to his subject, Akhun revealed to Stein all his secrets, including how they smoked the paper over a fire to simulate age and—as a final touch—sprinkled sand between the leaves. Himself illiterate, Akhun had at first tried copying genuine manuscripts which had been dug up, but had soon abandoned this laborious task when he realized that his foreign customers could not read them anyway. From then on he made up his own scripts as he went along, and when business began to boom he

turned to the only technology on hand—primitive block-printing—to reproduce these faster.

Back in England Stein had the embarrassing task of telling his friend Dr Hoernle that he had wasted much of the previous five years on worthless forgeries. He also had to break it to the British Museum authorities, who somewhat hurriedly removed all Akhun's works from the Oriental Collection. Other institutions, notably in Russia, hastily followed suit. After being forgotten for many years (though kept all along in two trunks in the British Museum basement), the Akhun forgeries came to light again some months ago when I was trying to find out what had become of them. They have now been catalogued and share an air-conditioned room with the Tun-huang manuscripts.

Last of the "foreign devils" to try his luck on the Silk Road was a burly, red-headed American professor of oriental art called Langdon Warner. Sent by the Fogg Art Gallery, part of Harvard University, in 1924 he reached the remote walled city of Kara-khoto only to find that it had already been stripped of its treasures by the Russian Koslov and the ubiquitous Stein. Disappointed, he made for Tun-huang with its painted cave-temples, and here he was more successful.

But it was now mid-winter at the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas and the special solvent he had brought with him for loosening frescoes kept freezing before it could penetrate the paint surface. Agonisingly, he was doing (for no one so far had dared to remove paintings from Tun-huang). Warner managed, with the aid of glue-soaked cloths, to remove a dozen small frescoes. Eleven of these reached home intact, together with a beautiful sculpture of a Buddhist saint which survived the bumpy journey across China by ox-cart, swathed in the professor's spare underpants and socks.

The following year Warner returned with a larger expedi-

tion, determined to carry away more frescoes, which he believed to be threatened by neglect and vandalism. But at that moment a wave of xenophobia was sweeping through China. At Tun-huang an angry mob of peasants barred their way and the expedition had to be abandoned. After a quarter of a century the Chinese had finally slammed the door in the faces of foreign archaeologists.

With the bulk of the Silk Road art treasures today in institutions in the West and in Japan, the question has to be raised of whether this was rescue or, as the Chinese insist, robbery. However well motivated, were the men who carried them away (not those who sent them) really villains or heroes? The Chinese, at least, have no doubts.

To them, men like Stein and Pelliot, von Le Coq and Warner, were shameless adventurers, however honoured in their own countries. "They were thieves and robbers," one young Chinese told me with feeling at Turfan, base camp for so many of the most successful raids. "So called scholars" is another label often applied to them in China.

Most of all the Chinese resent the loss of the Tun-huang manuscripts. Their feelings on this may be judged from a history of printing published in Peking in 1961. Referring to the ninth century block-printed Diamond Sutra, it declares: "This famous scroll was stolen over 50 years ago by the Englishman Stein, which causes people to gnash their teeth in bitter hatred."

But why, it must be asked, did the Chinese do nothing to prevent the removal of all these works of art at this time? And how many of the wall-paintings, sculptures, manuscripts and other antiquities now in the West would have survived the ever present danger of earthquakes and Muslim iconoclasm, to name just two local hazards?

Von Le Coq has described how an entire complex of cave temples slid off a cliff face in an earthquake before he had time to investigate them. The great missionary traveller Mildred Cable and Francesco French tell how they watched peasants knocking down the painted walls of ancient temples to give them more farmland, while more was destroyed by irrigation systems.

One visitor to Tun-huang in the 1920s describes how White Russian refugee soldiers had scratched Slav obscenities across many portraits of the Buddha when they were temporarily interned by the Chinese in the painted caves. Elsewhere murals were being defaced by zealous Muslims to whom the figures of Buddhism were anathema. At Muslim peasant admitted to von Le Coq that he had tipped a cartload of illuminated manuscripts into a river for fear of being found in possession of heathen images.

What additional damage, some may ask, might have been inflicted on many of the frescoes had they still been there when the Red Guards went on their iconoclastic rampage?

There can be no denying that (as in the quarrel over the Elgin Marbles) a strong case can be argued for the defence. However, when I put this to Chinese archaeologists in Peking they countered with the question: "But what about the paintings from Bezeklik?"

They were referring to the huge and magnificent murals, dating from the ninth century, which were destroyed by the Allied bombing of Berlin during the Second World War. Cemented into place in the old Ethnological Museum, they could not be moved to the safety of bunker or coalmine. Between November, 1943, and January, 1945, the museum was hit no fewer than seven times, and 28 of the largest wall-paintings—almost all from Bezeklik, near Urumchi—were lost for ever. Others of von Le Coq's treasures were looted by Soviet troops and have not been seen since.

Today, with tension rising, once again in the world, the Chinese point out the fate of the Bezeklik frescoes is an uncomfortable one to ponder.

This article is based on Peter Hopkirk's book *Foreign Devils on the Silk Road* published this week by John Murray at £9.50.

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Peter Wood (left) and William Dudley among the hubble bubbles

Selim's shimmering Glyndebourne home

By John Dexter

RA was the most likely place

for their pictures to be shown

—but they were lured by the

anti-Christian East and the

vision of total luxury that it

provided. We've provided Bessa

Selim's ladies with a secluded

balcony where they can gaze

down in comfort on the street

below, catching such breezes as

the Mediterranean provides,

without being spotted by them-

selves. I suppose it's more or

less the Arab equivalent of the

Victorian conservatory.

Certainly the Dudley set goes

to great lengths to avoid the

gaucheness and shyness which

disfigure so many productions

of *Entföhrung*. Dudley: Yes, I'm not a great

lover of gold and silver on

stage. Those colours, or simula-

tions of them, look garish, as

you say. It's taken far too long

to shake off the influence of

Bakst in these matters. I be-

lieve in a build-up of small

details—I can't bear the eye to

be bored. You could say that

I'm always striving for picto-

rial density. We're both out to

avoid stressing the pantomime

elements of *Entföhrung*, the

Colonel Blimpish view of funny

foreigners. Both Bessa Selim

and Osman are people with a

powerful sense of humour: we

laugh with them, not at them.

Osman, for instance, is a

mocker; he hears what he

wants to hear and not a word

more. Glyndebourne has been

changed, you know, by Peter

Hall's work here: like him

Travel

Walking in David Balfour's footsteps

bad from Craignure on Mull, where the ferry Oban deposits one, bag, and dog, down through ss of Mull to Fionnphort, the much tinier ferry across to Iona, is a long is the same road, or a follows the same route, as taken by David Balfour of the House of Shaws, eing wrecked on the is-Earraid, in Stevenson's ped.

ok him four days to he Ross of Mull to Torohere, at that time, the an from Torosay to Kinic in the land of Mor-norther difference to the day walk, was that in Balfour's day "I met of people grubbing in miserable fields that not keep a cat or herd-e kine about the bigness."

Today he would have tually no one across the leak road which threads across the south of rough Glen More, shir-sea lock Scridain. The Clearings and the sheep en to the disappearance plenty of people."

a night at the Craign, whose bleak exterior, excellent accommoda-food—the proprietore-learned the hotel craftce—it is worth making detour from the road eads to Iona. The detourh the lush, rhododend-ded paths which lead eassy Castle and the schoolchildren boiled out of the thick stone school excit-

edly. There seemed no more than a dozen of them. Rex submitted to being felt by the blind lady who fondled the great white beard of which she had read but never "seen". I took my leave, making the mistake of saying "bye bye" to the schoolchildren clustering on the wall, hearing their shrill West Highland accents mimicking the Englishman's farewell.

Over to the south, beyond the conifer woods, Jay Grass Point where the cattle from the outer islands, and from Mull, would be driven across the droving tracks for ferrying from Grass Point to the mainland and the cattle markets of the south.

The road, once beyond Stairfield, snakes its way through Glen More bridging the many tumbling streams, sketched with white pencil across the steep, rocky, heather clad slopes looming to the north of the road, leading to Mull's highest mountain, Ben More.

It was along this stretch of road that David Balfour saw "plenty of people". Now there are none. Only the occasional car, and a solitary bus, linking the extreme south west of the island to the east coast of Mull, and the ferries to the mainland.

It was a relief at last to reach the Iona ferry and walk aboard to make the short crossing to the island, the ferry pitching against the rolling swell of the Atlantic from the west.

"Secure and sacred," wrote Lord Clark in *Civilisation*, "I

never came to Iona—and I used to come here almost every year when I was young—without the feeling that some God is in this place". Certainly there is an aura about the place, whether the aura is to be found in oneself or is generated by Iona itself. It was, for many hundreds of years, one of the holiest places in Christendom at the dawn of Scotland's history.

Some 64 kings lie buried on Iona, having been brought up the Strand of the Dead to their last resting places from far and wide—not only Scottish kings, but others from Norway and even France. The journey out to this tiny, Atlantic tossed island on the fringe of Mull's western coast, must have been a major undertaking whether by sea or by track.

Then there is the effect of the light on Iona. Standing on its highest point, one looks over to Mull, over which the October clouds loom gloomingly. Yet, on Iona, the occasional shaft of sunlight creates a luminous quality to the island. Looking from the summit of the island, there are the white beaches fronting the Atlantic backing to the emerald green turf. At Iona's southern tip is the bay where St Columba landed in his coracle, having made the perilous crossing from Ireland with his band of monks.

Down in the bay, which is also known as the Marble Quarry, are a myriad of pebbles and stones gleaming with reds, greens, whites and blacks. Some multi coloured with veins and stripes, others perfect

white or deep red with grey etching. They have been already well polished by waves.

Away to the north can be seen Staffa, and the Dutchman's Cap, Little Colonsay, Ulva and Gomeray. And beyond the white beaches the sea is that of the Aegean, with its translucence and the blue black of the rocks far below.

When I was there, late in October, there was only one of the two hotels still open on the island—the Argyll Hotel. The food you eat is what they grow and very good it is. I made only one mistake—by asking the attractive proprietress (a lady who had, I learned, recently taken a Doctorate of Science in the geology of Iona) for a drink. Only to find the hotel had no licence. Mentally I blessed the Edwardian hipflask, full of Islay Mist, which I had had the sense to fill up back in Craignure.

Yet the atmosphere of the island was such that the next morning found me waiting for the first ferry back to Fionnphort. Was I afraid that if I stayed longer I would relax back into the calm and peace of the island until, like a lotus eater, I could no longer leave? Certainly I now long to return and stand at midnight in the blackness of the night outside the Argyll Hotel, looking at the myriad of stars wheeling above, and listening to the cry of the creatures of the night, while the waves pound against the shore at my feet.

Malcolm Craig



The Isle of Mull.

Radio

Who's on the line?

me reason the phone-in aired a reputation as adcasters' easy option: few lines, employ a com-talker with opinions on, necessarily knowledgeable thing and everything, a few discs while the ap gets his breath and audience do the rest. much happens; it is a filling in the silence areas line money and ight. That's one end cale; at the other, and st, the phone-in offers quite different, but ve this demands more a good deal more and planning a series speakers whom people ch want to interrogate senter who is quick on ke, well-informed and ly well able to exercise Radio 4's *Person to is operating at or ly near the upper end ale.*

ries began some four go with a session on must try to learn not "test-tube babies". Steptoe and Robert attracted a lot of nd once they had di- questions which ought roperly to have been d to the inquirer's GP, ramme moved into a ser. By the end they ived and discussed a any of the questions one who have given the some consideration ve wanted to ask; in ide was an informative refully planned docu- and sometimes, in the erplay of question and even more so.

ame 2 was to have Robert Mingebe to the me, but he had more business that week i off. Perhaps not sur- the substituted pro- on International, though highly topical ght of events just con- the Evening Ambrose, like a bit of a lash-up. Alkinson, Professor of onal Relations at was paired with a SAS commander, but intlemen was unfor- too long retired and it of touch to be able Of course if he had ive and in touch, he have been allowed to anything much

Jan Bastiaans, the sist who helped the authorities at the time luck-up train siege, was ight in, but sounded e, seemingly because ish was not quite up e with the distortions elephone. Wednesday ago Leonard Williams,

David Wade

GRAND CRUISE THE FAR EAST

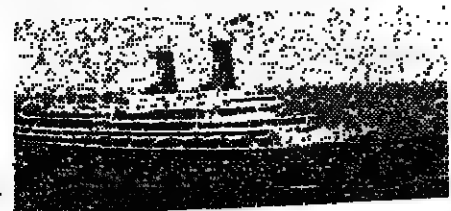
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Fred Emery

That Tory U-turn in retrospect

In this week of Carrington's clemency—or consequence as some of his right-wing critics have gloated—another question lingers over the Government's Iran U-turn. It is: is the Prime Minister truly a "conviction politician"?

This description may have originated with opponents: Mr Wedgwood Benn and Sir Harold Wilson come to mind. But Mrs Thatcher has used it of herself often enough to indicate she thoroughly likes the sound of it. It is generally taken to mean the opposite of expedient practitioners; that not only do she and her kind intend doing what they believe, but pursuing it come what may. Rhetoric of this kind came easily off her lips in her address to the Conservative Women's Conference: "We don't shrink from tackling any task, however hard, nor do we forget the long term". And, relaying the message she said was coming to her from the country, "keep on... however hard the road". And much more.

But it is hardly British to test a policy to destruction; indeed the British electorate can be ungrateful for having such conviction pursued on their behalf—ask Mr Heath. This Prime Minister, whatever her impulses, invariably has better second thoughts, so say her close supporters. When she needs advice for a decision, especially a quick decision, to reverse course, get out of a mess, head off unnecessary trouble, she is better at it, and with fewer considerations of "face", or apparently conscience, than any male Machbeth of a politician.

Last Monday's lightning decision to cave in, rather than round on her back-necked rebels and fight for the Joint EEC agreement backdating sanctions on Iran which Lord Carrington had just made, must now be added to her tally. When Mr Michael Foot next day ran her on how good she was when she tried at learning that "U-turns can be conducted with great grace and

skill", Mrs Thatcher tartly accepted it as a compliment from an expert.

The sanctions-backdating affair has aroused a lot of comment—and hope—about the tendency of MPs to assert themselves, and of the dilemma this might pose between executive and legislative over foreign policy. However that may be, and whatever the appearance, we are, I think, unlikely to reach the Kissinger agony of seeing Congress scuttling foreign policy.

The key point here is the degree to which the Government is prepared to demand loyalty from the troops. In this case it chose not to exert itself on behalf of its own policy because it deemed the loss of inner-party prestige was not worth it. My point is that Mrs Thatcher decided on the ultimate weapon, of attending a meeting of her backbenchers to exact support, because upon it depended her credibility with her fellow European heads of government, with the President, even with Mr Reagan, that it mattered because a U-turn would further sap her Olympic boycott policy—well, in that event, she must have carried the day. That would have been the mark of a conviction politician.

But there are various reasons why she did not try, first among them, perhaps, that the Government had only 24 hours once the Speaker granted an emergency debate, to turn things round. But Mrs Thatcher did not begin to try because she sensed, and may have shared, the intense feeling among MPs that they had been "conned". The word "retrospective" in legislation is, thankfully, anathema to most MPs of all parties. Some remember how Mrs Thatcher, as leader of the Opposition and sometime tax lawyer, deplored Labour's attempt to give retrospective effect to penalties for sex avoidance schemes.

The new Iran Sanctions Act so explicitly excluded retrospective. Some members of the Cabinet say they knew

nothing of it being revived. So nothing was more certain than the Commons' decision. The Times Daily column has been one of the most impressive. Ministers gave their earlier—as Lord Carrington admitted in the Lords—that retrospective was not intended was now blown away in a fait accompli.

Foreign Office Ministers either have remarkably short memories or Mr Douglas Hurd ought not to have gone on and on with his self-defence. The day the new Iran Bill was introduced, it was not explained to all who would listen that the Government would never get through Parliament provisions against existing exports of the block-buster Act of 1939? Yet here they were trying.

Well, it all was done for "presentational" reasons, Lord Carrington admitted: not merely to make the Americans feel good, but remember to show solidarity and so prevent them doing something rash like military intervention. It was also to make it seem we were taking "the lead" over jaggard Europeans; to prove, as Mrs Thatcher will keep on harping, that travellers abroad these days find again "it means something to be British".

The consequences of all this for our foreign policy may be less dramatic than they have been depicted. Lord Carrington's standing abroad with foreign governments has certainly been high, and will not be undone by one disavowal. True, it can hardly be timely, in the matter of our EEC budget complaint, to be seen unable to "deliver" on commitments. But there is another view: the demonstration of political "feel" will be seen not as weakness abroad but as something familiar. In foreign policy, conviction politicians can be hard to deal with.

And at home, at least within the Conservative Party, something similar is happening. The ability to limit damage,

by ruthless action if necessary, is widely admired as political maturity. "The way she got us out of this mess, with the whole thing wrapped up inside 24 hours, was masterly," said one AEP who is not normally an admirer. She chose the less glorious route but her political clout is intact, perhaps even enhanced for later fights.

Does the ability at least to adjust convictions signal a U-turn in economic policy? Well, for the strict monetarists Mrs Thatcher and her team are already being found wanting. The strict apostles cannot abide the notion that wages can possibly affect inflation; it is all in the money supply and that, we are told, is working. Therefore the flood of exhortation to the unions for moderation in wage demands is wrong-headed; it is not merely a dialogue of the deaf but, to the monetarist, it is wasteful of political clout.

Likewise there are those who are shocked to see Mrs Thatcher sketching in the outlines of a pay policy by making her a new pledge to set an "example" to prevent public pay becoming the pacemaker for inflation.

The TUC ought not to be shocked. Instead of showing pique they might take ministers at their word. For obviously there is an unsettled feeling throughout the Cabinet at the way the gloom statistics, however predictable, are being received. Ministers, including the Prime Minister, feel they ought to be doing something about it, which is not quite the way a conviction politician would carry through the exaltation of free collective bargaining.

Possibly we will have to wait a little longer for a complete answer to my question. But several members of the Cabinet believe that the lady has been misread, misreads herself perhaps. Asked if he counted last week as a U-turn, one of them chuckled: "Yes, and it won't be the last either".



Reinhold Messner: aiming for the top.

Messner's daring: taking on Everest alone

Sportsview

What chance has one man of scaling Everest alone? How does he prepare for such a climb and what makes him even want to try? For Reinhold Messner from South Tyrol, Italy, the answers are fairly simple. After many years of spectacular climbing feats, he is aged 35, extraordinarily sound in wind and in limb—with the exception of a few toes lost through frostbite. He talks mystically about discovering more about himself but when he sets out next month for Everest it will be as a professional mountaineer seeking to reach the literal top of his profession and with perhaps an even chance of succeeding.

Messner negotiated permission for the climb earlier this year in Peking with officials of the Chinese Government. Soon he will pack a rucksack and set off. An attraction of climbing alone is that expeditions are less complicated to organize and only three people will accompany him to the foot of the mountain.

It is difficult to compare Messner with the last man, and the first, who tried to climb Everest by himself, Captain Maurice Wilson, MC, was an obstinate, bulldog-jawed Yorkshireman who had no skill as a climber, little liking for mountains and an unfounded conviction that all it took to reach even the highest summit was a rest, a sleeping bag, warm clothes, food and faith. He was wrong.

Captain Wilson piloted a Gypsy Moth out to the Himalayas in the spring of 1934 intending to land on the mountain and scramble to the top. Neither Tibet nor Nepal would allow him to fly over their territory so he reached Everest on foot disguised as a native. He set off up the mountain along the route where Mallory and Irvine had perished 10 years before. After pleading with him to retreat his two sherpas refused to go any further and returned to wait at the foot of the mountain. The Captain pressed on, convinced he had a divine mission to climb Everest. He had with him three horses, two tins of oatmeal and a small Union Jack. The following spring the Captain's frozen corpse was discovered near the upper basin of the Rongbuk glacier, still 7,000ft below the summit.

Reinhold Messner's solo attempt on Everest is more prudently founded. Captain Wilson ranked hardly as a beginner; Messner has a track record unequalled by any other mountaineer. Wilson's "faith" drove him irrationally, Messner is daring but not reckless and never hesitates to turn back if conditions are unacceptable or if he feels out of sympathy with the climb.

He has scaled six peaks of more than 8,000 metres, including Everest, but his attempts on at least four others were abandoned because he felt conditions were unsafe. Over the past 30 years Messner has climbed over 2,000 alpine routes, many in the highest

order of difficulty and a number of them solo.

In 1978 he climbed Everest with Peter Habeler without using oxygen and then went on to make a solo ascent of Nanga Parbat, a notoriously treacherous Himalayan peak, during an earthquake. Last year he climbed K2, the second highest mountain in the world with a small expedition. He has written 17 books on climbing and for 10 years has lived comfortably wandering the mountain regions of the world and then relating his adventures.

Messner lives in a large traditional-style Tyrolean house in the Dolomites valley of northern Italy, which is overlooked by the soaring tooth of a Dolomite rock peak which he first climbed at the age of five. We met at his home last week and he described his plans. The Chinese permission extended during the monsoon season normally regarded as the worst time of year to climb in the eastern Himalayas. Climbers usually aim for the calm spells which appear before and after the monsoon.

He explained: "There are various theories about what happens to these rain-laden monsoon winds that sweep in from the South. Some suggest that the north side may be rather more sheltered than has

Messner has a track record unequalled by any other mountaineer. He is daring but not reckless...

been thought by the pattern of the air flow. If that is right, an attempt during the monsoon may be possible." Certainly to climb Everest alone and without oxygen at the worst time of the year would be ultimately spectacular. "My most exciting adventure" as he put it.

A French expedition had "booked" the north side of the mountain for the monsoon but there was doubt about whether this attempt would get off the ground. Messner held first option if it failed to materialize giving him some five months in which to time his solo attempt.

The north ridge of Everest is a long, shambly and relatively easy-angled slope with two possible routes leading up the higher reaches to the summit. Which route Messner selects will depend on the snow conditions. If the ridge itself is clear he will stick to it, following generally the line taken by Mallory and Irvine over the two rock steps. The alternative

would be one of two long, lies leading directly up north face. If there were with firm snow and not a snowed by avalanche they offer the easiest and quic route to the top. It was a section that a Japanese climber was killed by an avalanche week.

The Chinese climbing rations, apart from laying, a code for moral behaviour that every explorer should have a medical officer, a Chinese liaison officer and an interpreter. Messner will set up a base at Reo from where he will establish a series of other camps to an advance base at the foot of the steep slope below north col.

An attractive feature this side of the mountain the solo mountaineer is that he does not have a dangerous opposite face in Nepal. It is some objective danger area below the north col. Messner calculates that will be his greatest safety.

There is medical interest in his attempt, and specially America's are keen to observe Messner's heart performance. A large American team has offered to fit him with a small monitoring device which will record his heartbeat and transmit it to America via satellite. The heart monitor will provide a link between base camp and I. "Perhaps it would be information for them but me it would mean fresh tables brought back. These in the truck," he says.

From the north col Messner expects to make two big on the way to the summit one between the two da Spending any longer at high altitude would be brain damage from the thin air or severe mutilation by ice.

Given reasonable conditions Messner hoped to be on his high base camp below north col within seven days of leaving it. Speed is essential. A slow pace would weigh about 45lb to survive for 10 days would wear out underfoot a climbing suit and an extra layer of down clothing. His axe would have a cut attachment enabling him to photograph himself at the summit as proof that he reached it.

Messner is now travelling covering at least 3,000 of vertical height a day. He runs in 38 minutes. He gets 34 minutes.

Rigorous training lowers his heart beat and his breathing apparatus. He has withstood the strain of athletic effort in air. On Everest, when he properly acclimatized, Messner is ready and conditions are so good he will then make a final commitment and head for the summit. He will be right. There will be no one to help him if they are so to help him if they are so

Ronald F.

Chambermaids form a picket line outside the Grosvenor House Hotel last year—a dispute that hit the Antique Dealers' Fair—and made them find a new venue.

How the antique fair found a new home

When nearly 80 chambermaids were sacked from the Grosvenor House Hotel last summer nobody thought the incident would ripple through the usually sedate circles of the art and antiques trade with such major effect.

Nobody, at that time, believed it could lead to the cancellation of what was a major event in the trade's yearly calendar, the Antique Dealers' Fair; far less did anyone foresee, as has just been announced, that the fair would rise in a new guise from the dispute's ashes.

After a year of uncertainty, the fair—for nearly half a century at Grosvenor House—has found a new and, it is hoped, permanent home, at the Royal Academy, where in September it will be married with the Burlington Fine Arts Fair, and the cream of the trade's pictures and antiques be shown side by side.

Mr George Levy, who chaired the committee of dealers organizing the fair and who has seen it through much negotiating and hard work to ensure its survival, sees it as a fair-ale ending to a sequence of troubles which threatened what to the dealers, and many others, was not only an important trade event but part of London life. "It was really like the Derby, or Wimbledon;



it had always been there. It was unthinkable that it might end."

It was two dealers, travelling back from New York by boat in the Twenties, who first dreamed up the idea of the fair. At a time of economic depression, they wanted to bring some colour to people's lives, as well as stimulate trade. As a result, an art treasures exhibition was held at the Grafton Galleries in 1928 with a two shillings entrance fee. This year, at the Royal Academy, it will be £2, including a handbag. For one year it took place at Christie's, then in 1934 it moved to Grosvenor House.

Until last year, it had been there every year since (except for the war), with royal patronage since 1937; first that of Queen Mary, herself a keen collector and then that of

the Queen Mother. It was taken over by Trust Houses when they merged with Grosvenor House in 1963 and then by Trust Houses Forte when the group was formed in 1970.

Sir Charles Forte, chief executive, has a known dislike of trade union power. Thus, after the chambermaids were sacked in their dispute by the men building the exhibition stands, who refused to cross the chambermaids' picket lines, he began to cast about for non-union labour. In the meantime, the stands were not completed, and the 1979 fair, at which some £40m worth of antiques would have been up for sale, was cancelled just a few days before it was due to open in June.

But the hard-work and trade was not entirely lost. Just three weeks later, Mr Levy persuaded the Department of

the Environment to allow the fair to go to the empty rooms of Somerset House in the Strand, and a second highly-successful art treasures exhibition in the fair's history was held last autumn.

It did not solve the long-term problem of Grosvenor House, however. Would next year's fair be going ahead? Sir Charles was unable to obtain the cast-iron guarantee he wanted from the firm building the stands that there would be no disruption, and the attempt to bring in a non-union firm to do the job fell through when the dealers vetoed them as unsuitable.

The bombshell came last December when, out of the blue, Trust Houses Forte announced the cancellation of the 1980 fair. After the loss of the 1979 fair another venue was now essential if the ven-

ture was not to die, and slowly the idea of the Academy emerged. The Burlington Fine Arts Fair had been there since 1977 and its sponsors, The Burlington Magazine, enabled the merger to take place.

Apart from assuring its future, the move gives a chance for the Antique Dealers' Fair to have a facelift. The 1830 dateline, which prevented newer artefacts from being shown, is to be abolished, so for a first time Fabergé and Mackintosh can be shown alongside Chippendale and Adam. More important, as Mr Levy puts it, it gives the art market the anchor it needs at the top end of the trade. "It demonstrates that despite big prices around the world at auction, the art market is the collecting market."

Frances Gibb

Simply lusting after books

Some poor fools collect stamps; others collect parking tickets or wives. The rich collect paintings, the boring collect merely money. But of all the varieties of *cacothetic* collecting that afflict the magpie race of man, the least lunatic is the lust to collect books. Books are often the epitomes and highest achievements of the generations in which they are written. The only important thing is to read them. But in a superstitious way to possess books is to possess by sympathetic magic the wisdom of the ages.

The journal of the blessed congregation of bibliomaniacs, *The Book Collector*, is celebrating its fifteenth year under the editorship of Nicolas Barker. Halfway between a learned journal and a trade magazine, it is the place to read the hottest news about incunabula and forgeries, editions so rare that they were unknown, *variae lectiones*, plagiarisms, unmarked, and dirty old collectors who lived lives of eremitical austerity in order to spend every penny on their precious books.

To give a flavour of the quarterly: coming issues will have an article on the King's College copy, once Blake's and later E. M. Forster's of *Songs of Innocence and Experience*; and a piece on Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and her annotated copy of Dodsley's *Collection of Poems*, in which

her works and herself were pilloried—it makes a painful feminist treat for its shows how even a powerful independent-minded woman could be reduced to impotence by routine eighteenth-century male-chauvinist piggery.

The magazine started life as *The Book Handbook*, "an illustrated quarterly for discriminating book-lovers". In a fit of bibliomania, Lord Kemsley bought it in 1952. The fit passed Lord Kemsley went right off books, and sold *The Book Collector* to Ian Fleming, book-collector as well as Bond-creator, in 1954. The demonic genius behind it from the beginning was its editor, John Hayward, a bookseller and T. S. Eliot's muse, a man with a sharp tongue and a mind like a razor. Fleming and Hayward died suddenly in 1965, and the magazine was taken on by John Carter, Percy Muir, James Shand, its printer, and Nicolas Barker, who became editor.

He is a donnish, bookish, engagingly eccentric man who started collecting when he was five and bought his first seventeenth-century book when he was eight, spending his entire week's pocket money of 6d. While at school he ran his own printing press. After reading *Moby Dick* and *Great Expectations*, he went into publishing for Rupert Hart Davis, Macmillan and then the

OUP. When the British Library needed a Head of Conservation to cope with its crisis of many thousands of old books falling to pieces, Barker was the obvious appointment. He was a bibliomane expert in the production of all kinds of books from Greek papyrus to paperbacks.

In any spare time from the British Library and his family, he edits *The Book Collector* from a little office by the British Museum, with a part-time editorial assistant and a part-time office manager. The quarterly costs £12 a year. Its circulation of 1,800 among collectors, librarians, dons, writers, booksellers, and others afflicted by books, in this country and the United States. It gets by, usually without making a noticeable profit or loss. The interest in books as physical objects is growing. For its readers its authority is unchallenged, each issue is a quarterly treat of articles, decisive reviews and authentic news.

If anybody in the world of books can explain the bibliophile's incurable itch, Barker should be able to. He says: "Why should anybody pay £10,000 for a first edition of Bacon's *Essays*, when he can buy the same text from Penguin for £1? It is an act of reverence for an object of peculiar potency. You might well ask why anyone would

pay a spectacular price for an original Reynolds, when indistinguishable reproductions are available. It is the feeling of the medieval scribe that the Word of God, or of Aristotle for that matter, demanded a worthy physical form in binding and illumination.

The printed word is frighteningly ephemeral. If we do not preserve old books, they will simply vanish off the face of the earth.

"Books are the largest survival of any period in the past. There are more medieval manuscripts than all other medieval artefacts. There are more seventeenth-century printed books than all other surviving objects from the seventeenth century. These books used to be so common that they were treated as waste paper. But there are fewer of them every year. We can learn more about the Middle Ages, and even about the Dark Ages, from their books than from the few cathedrals, or burtons or houses that have survived. Old books deserve at least something of the same care that we mete out to other objects from the past."

The Book Collector, its learned editor, the market place and those dear bookmen place an fact for paper are making sure that they get it.

Philip Howard

Laughing the other side of the Wall

Letter from East Berlin

"The Soviet Union has cancelled the Olympic Games." The word spread round East Berlin like wildfire. Really? Why asks everyone. "Because for the shooting events the Chinese have entered 150,000 marksmen."

Almost the first words from friends as one arrives in East Berlin are "have you heard the latest one about...?" and out come strings of political jokes, sharp, wry, sophisticated and very witty.

In East Germany, where life is drab and difficult, where radio, TV and the press show the leaders of state control and reality is vastly different from the official facade, humour flourishes better than anywhere in the West. Political jokes are a way of letting off steam, or hiding back a little of missing things more bearable.

Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, returns to East Berlin after a state visit abroad. The city's lights are bright but when he lands the airport is deserted. His car is there but no chauffeur and no allowed to travel to the West, the buildings empty. He drives around bewildered until finally he comes to the Berlin Wall and sees a big hole. Above the hole is a notice "Erich, you're the last, switch off the lights."

No one ever seems to know where the jokes start but they get around with amazing speed. Less than 24 hours after

a big event everyone is exchanging quips about it. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Olympic boycott says have produced a rich harvest.

Two Soviet soldiers, recently withdrawn from East Germany, are shivering on duty in Kabul. "It is so cold here," says one. "Do not complain so loud," says the other, "or they won't take us to Yugoslavia."

Political jokes are tolerated and no one appears to be penalized for purveying them, at least privately. Even highly-placed officials will permit themselves to pass on the latest to foreign visitors.

A popular one mocks the fact that coveted West German marks have become, semi-legally, the second currency in the East. Herr Honecker, it goes, having reached the age of 62, when East Germans are allowed to travel to the West, pays a visit to the other side. When he returns they ask him how it was. "Basically," he says, "there is no difference. You can buy everything for West marks there too."

Curiously, one would think, for a Communist country, political humour is actually institutionalized, in the form of political cabaret, night after night at the *Die Distanz* (The Distance), in East Berlin. *Die Pfeffermühle* (The Peppermill) and countless lesser ones all over the country spoof the way the system works.

Needless to say, the wit is not as daring as in private jokes. You are not allowed to attack the system itself, the government or individual politicians. But you can poke fun at life under Communism—the short-

ages (at present the burning issue is floor tiles) the work-dodging, the hoarding of scarce products, how to fiddle your work-hours even—cautiously—the Soviet Union and the secret police.

Within the strict confines of political censorship, wit seems to become funnier, subtler. *Die Distanz* thrives on allusions, double meanings, plays on words, unfinished sentences where the audience can imagine the point for themselves. "Unlike real life, the theatre has an emergency exit," remarks one actor at the Distanz. A reference to the virtual impossibility of escaping to the West? You can think what you like.

Political cabaret has a long tradition in Germany but it is without doubt better in the East than the West. It seems to thrive on political oppression, on the element of "The whole point of going says one German, "is to how far they dare go."

Political cabaret, *Die Distanz*, despite the equally prissy name, seems almost comparison. It attacks politicians personally, from Chairman Mao downwards. *Die Distanz* is the biggest laughs and the Western cabarets in be praying for him to elected Chancellor—but in country where you can what you like anyway, criticism is missing.

The risk to East German cabarettists is real. Last year *Die Pfeffermühle* went to it attacked the "Number One (Herr Honecker). In the end, the local party official, the city's top official, the biggest laughs and the Western cabarets in be praying for him to elected Chancellor—but in country where you can what you like anyway, criticism is missing.

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Patricia Clough



ISLAMIC INITIATIVE

results of the Islamic ministers' conference in bad as about as good as reasonably be expected, he divisions in the Muslim and the objective difficulties, particularly in the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. In spite of the pro-Soviet within the conference, they held firmly to their demands for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet and not recognizing the Karmal regime. The mujahidin received a by being brought into the as part of the Iranian Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan was able to the political committee air behalf, while the regime remained firmly ad.

the conference stopped backing a military solution, and to explore the humanitarian of the refugees rather serious war-chest. The ministers clearly indicate their preference for a solution, and to explore the humanitarian of the refugees rather serious war-chest. The ministers clearly indicate their preference for a solution, and to explore the humanitarian of the refugees rather serious war-chest.

committee would be well to put Kabul last on its and to think carefully committing itself to go Since two of its three

HERING OVER MICRO-CHIPS

tional Enterprise Board wholly-owned subsidiary, are clearly becoming increasingly frustrated at the of the Government to a final decision about re of public support for the manufacture of micro-electronics. The decision rests with Sir Keith Joseph, but his continuing indecision is clear enough. The that entirely new industries should be set up public capital alone does at all into the doctrines that in the Government is to apply to its industry. On the other hand, come clear that this is way in which this country to develop any micro-chip industry. tional industries decline employment rises, micro- exactly the sort of and expanding industry try needs.

was established in 1978, ers, two Americans and all of high repute in

MED A ROGUE AND A VAGABOND

id McNea, the Metropolitan Commissioner, and as Jardine, on behalf of the Federation, have both rigorously to the conclusion of the House of Commons Fairness Committee that the law—section 4 of the Act 1924—should be repealed. They argue a law is an essential the fight against crime, its absence will encourage doers and result in an in street crime. Their must, of course, be attention and respect, are views which were to account by the Comd rejected. It is worth out that the ten of members who agreed on amendment to repeal the evenly divided between main parties.

claimed that that repeal would leave a substantial which would be exploited criminal element, and weak and the defenceless greater risk than they present. Yet the law of d theft, for instance, is used more often than is infrequently, "sus" is rather than attempt be

ing the arms race and Mrs E. P. Thompson article on disarmament Elizabeth and Wayland argue that, if nothing is to arms race will take off in a years ago, in the midst of the "parity" in nuclear and Nato plans to maintain. We are now, at the upswing of the most arms race known to and in the past few, is race has accelerated. at are we to do? It is sad well-intentioned authors "By doing something" we mean serving the Soviet by demonstrating against missiles in Suffolk or advance self-Finlandization of and central Europe". We to be an ill-informed critic campaign for European Disarmament, with which associated.

European Appeal, promoted Bertrand Russell Peace n, calls for the withdrawal cruise and Soviet SS-20 and for the creation of a of nuclear weapons in e, and not only in western Europe.

not yet been in Suffolk, e not yet been in Suffolk, e not yet been in Suffolk,

of government and choose their economic, political, and social systems free from outside interference or coercion". If the Russians are at all serious in wanting a political solution to the crisis they should be prepared to discuss a solution on that basis and to accept that such a solution will be possible only with the assent and participation of the mujahidin. Until the people of Afghanistan have exercised their right, Mr Karmal is at best the leader of one faction in a civil war. It is only on that basis that the committee could consider talking to him, and it would be reasonable for them to tell the Russians that their willingness to do so depends on a reciprocal Russian willingness to negotiate a ceasefire with the mujahidin. If the Russians refuse this, then they should be told they have no right to expect that material support for the mujahidin will be withheld.

If the Soviet concern about American involvement turns out to be at all genuine, the committee might want to proceed to Washington in search of some conditional assurances. That might pose problems for Mr Qureshi, and more acutely for the American administration. Clearly it is going to be difficult for Iran to play this kind of role so long as the American hostages are not released. Yet another reason why they should be released as soon as possible. Meanwhile it is encouraging to see Iran, for her troubles, taking such a robustly independent line.

Insult to the dead

From Miss Maria Gallant
Sir, On April 8 the graves of 22 Canadian soldiers killed in France in 1944, and who happened to be Jewish, were vandalized in the Canadian war cemetery at Caen. Their graves were smashed. Anti-Jewish slogans were painted on the cemetery wall. These soldiers were volunteers; conscription for overseas service was never enforced.

Apart from the protest by a French Jew, the vandalism has been no reaction, though had the cemetery been French, or had it been situated in Germany, I imagine the reaction would have been loud indeed. Had the vandals been Jewish, the protest would have been left up to the Archbishop of Paris or the Reformed Church of France. I have discovered that nothing at all was reported in Canada, and my efforts to obtain any sort of statement have run up against a wall of indifference and, I repeat to you, antisemitism. I was told: "It wasn't an anti-Canadian gesture—it was anti-Jewish." And "Well, after all, they are dead." (Every French person I have mentioned it to has been horrified and shocked.)

One can't apologise to the dead, but I would like to have at least one voice heard in their favour.

Yours sincerely,
MAVIS GALLANT,
14 rue Jean Perrandi,
75006 Paris,
May 9.

'Soaking' the water savers

From the Director General of the National Water Council
Sir, The plea from Rossholme School (May 21) that the willingness to save water depends on evident savings which are withheld has been overborne by events. Since 1976, water authorities and many water companies, including the Bristol Waterworks Company, have been phasing out the traditional system of applying rate-based minimum charges to premises which are metered. A two-part tariff is widely used to reflect the undoubted fact that while many of the costs of providing water are related to the volumes used, there are standing costs also (and tariffs for telephone, electricity etc, commonly take the same form).

The bill for water supply to Rossholme School is now based on a volume charge of 17.7p per cubic metre and a standing charge of £16 per year. Under the old system, the rate-based minimum charge would have been £141.64. No doubt Mr Griggs can involve his pupils in calculating the potential savings from economical use of water as well as in the actual achievement of the savings in the excellent way his letter describes.

Yours faithfully,
P. F. STOTT,
Director General,
National Water Council,
1 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

"serving the interests of Western imperialism", and now, yet again, we have Elizabeth and Wayland Young denouncing the British movement for peace as "serving the Soviet interest".

As for the Youngs' specific comments on the work of the Geneva Disarmament Committee, these are constructive and merit study. Gains may be registered at these levels, but only if the political leaders are continually exposed to the pressure of informed opinion. The work must go on at every level, and we invite the Youngs to study the proposals for European Nuclear Disarmament without hasty prejudgement.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY THOMPSON,
E. P. THOMPSON,
Wick, Wiltshire,
Worcester.

Good taste

From Mr Steven Aiker
Sir, Surely the number of school children taking their own meals for lunch is indicative of a sensible revolt against 20 years' worth of revolting institutional food rather than an indication of hardship on behalf of their parents.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN J. AIKER,
23 Hornby Bank,
Hornby,
Lancaster.

Testing time for monetarism

From Mr Wynne Godley
Sir, In an article published in The Times nearly four years ago (July 13, 1976), William Rees-Mogg showed that the rise in retail prices between 1967 and 1975 had been identical with that in the excess money supply two years previously (ie from 1965 to 1973). "The strongest case for monetarism" he argued, "has always been that it is the excess money supply which is the cause of inflation. Whereas many economic theorists can neither prove nor disprove the theory of monetarism, it can be tested scientifically. It can be used to make predictions and the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of the predictions can be observed".

Unfortunately during 1975-80, the five years succeeding the period analysed by Mr Rees-Mogg, retail prices have risen about 25 per cent more than the preceding (1973-78) growth of the excess money supply as defined by him. Moreover the gap looks like widening further since the excess money supply grew by only 10 per cent in 1979 and retail prices are almost certainly going to rise by more than this between 1980 and 1981.

Looks as though monetarism is failing in a very big way to pass the scientific test set for it by Mr Rees-Mogg. This is alarming because of the central importance which the Government attaches to controlling the money supply. Recent events appear to confirm the view that the Government is far from the last year that we are now in for the worst of all worlds—the most severe recession by far since the war combined with continuing high or even rising inflation.

Yours faithfully,
WYNNE GODLEY,
Department of Applied Economics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
May 22.

Questions over doctors' pay award

From Dr P. B. C. Matthews, FRS, and Dr A. D. Smith
Sir, On most occasions your leading articles and the Government cry out for the necessity of science-based innovation and application for the nation to survive. But the recent massive pay awards to doctors (approximately 65 per cent over 13 months, further assisted by the tax changes) will increase still more the disparity between the rewards and career structure of those with innate scientific and technical ability who take up medicine, in comparison with those who use such skills in any other profession. You suggest (leading article, May 20) that the "vocational impulse is so strong" for potential medical students that they are easily "excited" in their subsequent careers and paid inadequately. But it is our experience, as pre-clinical teachers and selectors of medical students, that the recent tremendous pressure to enter medicine, including that from those already with science degrees, owes much to the security and material rewards of the profession. When asked at interview what they might do should they be unsuccessful in gaining a medical place, few applicants regard with favour the idea that they would have as much to give the community by taking up nursing.

So our schools, universities, industry and Civil Service are coming perforce to draw their scientific talent from among those who were not found good enough to enter medicine. The pool of scientific talent in any generation is hardly sufficient, even if equally distributed between the many professions, to sustain the scientific and technical needs of the nation, for it is not desirable to put such a premium on one profession, and incidentally thereby also help to exclude some whose primary motivation is indeed to serve or to carry on a family tradition.

Yours faithfully,
P. B. C. MATTHEWS, FRS,
A. D. SMITH, FRS,
Christ Church,
Oxford.

Democracy and the unions

From Mr Richard Wilkins
Sir, My experience of democracy in the Transport and General Workers' Union, based on three years' ordinary membership, seems very different from Mr Moss Evans's description (May 16). During my time none of the dozen or so fellow workers I knew well, nor I ever voted or were asked to vote in any election for any delegate or committee member at any level in the union from branch upward. I know of only one election ever taking place, for a shop steward in another section of the branch. If regular branch meetings took place they were not notified to the ordinary membership either in the form of advance notification or of records of proceedings after the event.

Four meetings were held during my time at which ordinary members

The Turin Shroud

From Professor Averil Cameron
Sir, Mr Ian Wilson's courteous but unconvincing defence (May 9) of his theory that the Turin Shroud is to be identified with the Mandylion of Edessa seems to suggest that one piece of evidence is as good as another and that we should choose the theory which we could do that, writing history would be easier than this.

The whole burden of my lecture (report, April 30) was that there is no evidence for the Mandylion as a cloth of any sort, large or small, before the sixteenth century. Prior to that, all references to an Edessan Image are (in the earliest period) to a painting made by Abgar's servant or (from the sixth century) to an icon not made with hands, but still having the appearance of a painted picture. If this is

The Bath Academy

From Mr Kenneth Armitage and others
Sir, The Education Committee of the County of Avon has agreed that the Bath Academy of Art should be transferred from Corsham in Wiltshire to Bath and merged with the College of Higher Education. This decision, shortly to be considered by the Council of Avon, is opposed by the Governors, who have a belief shared by the staff and students of the school and the community between its standards and the setting at Corsham Court.

The Bath Academy has made a very distinguished and particular contribution to the history of art education in Britain. We write, not only to alert those who know "Corsham" to its predicament, but to

Disclosure rules for Whitehall

From Sir Max Beloff, FBA
Sir, All students of British government should be grateful to Mr Peter Hennessy for his useful summary in your columns (May 22) of the memorandum of guidance to civil servants on the restrictions they should impose upon themselves in answering questions from the House of Commons Select Committees. When Miss Gillian Triggs and I sent to press our recently published book, *The Government of the United Kingdom*, the new committee system had been proposed by the Select Committee on Procedure, but the proposal had not yet been implemented. It was too early to say how such a system would work out in practice or what difference it would make. But the "memorandum of guidance", with its sweeping list of categories excluded from discussion, suggests that the road along which parliamentary reformers have been travelling for the past 15 years, may be a blind alley, that the multiplicity of committees, even the provision of extra staff, will not allow the backbench MP to get a better idea of what goes on in government or make useful suggestions for improving its efficiency.

What is lacking is not so much in the powers of the House of Commons as in the powers of ministers. For although the restrictions on what civil servants may say before committees are justified as preserving ministerial responsibility for policy, there are in fact designed for quite a different purpose, namely to prevent the implementation of the minister's policy and securing the perpetration of their own. Nor could a committee discover how far civil servants opposed to a ministerial policy were giving him advice on the implementation designed to discredit it in the eyes of the outside world and force him back onto a line of which they approved.

What is clear is that the intention of the House of Commons in creating the new committees, which was to subordinate appointed to elected persons, has been and is being willfully frustrated by the Whitehall mandarinate. Since it is government policy that it is likely to be endangered by the perpetuation of this attitude it is for the Leader of the House to call the House of Commons' attention to it and to decide whether to limit parliamentary sovereignty, which remains the law, or to provide a remedy. Failing that, perhaps the Committee of Privileges could look into the question of whether the "memorandum of guidance" is not possibly in itself a contempt of the House.

Yours truly,
MAX BELOFF, FBA,
St Antony's College,
Oxford.

A vicious circle?

From Mr J. J. T. Hunt
Sir, I read in your front page today (May 22) the headline, "Mrs Thatcher says wages vicious circle will be broken". I am then shocked to read further in your paper that senior British Airways stewards and stewardesses will receive between £12,000 and £15,000 per annum and if I understand correctly, for less work.

Surely Mrs Thatcher cannot have transmitted her message clearly enough to British Airways, let alone to all British industry, public and private, and the Civil Service. I hope that she and her ministers will act instantly and stop crazy and inflationary pay awards, or else every busman, busman, postman, not to forget overworked nurses, indeed everyone will rightly feel that a minimum wage is £12,000 per annum.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY HUNT,
Thorman Hunt and Co Ltd,
42 Monmouth Street, WC2.

Publish and be damned

From the Editor of The Good Book Guide
Sir, Without disagreeing at all with Tom Rosenzweig's point (May 17), that publishers need to find a way to promote commercial books in order to survive, I am sure that the authors and the less remunerative parts of their lists. I would like to comment on another aspect of *The Risk Business* programme on the "typping" of books which should, I believe, be a cause for concern. This is the lack of availability of "good books" in the bookshops.

It is all very well for Section 29 of the Copyright Act to require publishers to publish Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, but you find their works in bookshops? Can you even find Sharpe and Angus Wilson? The evidence increasingly indicates that you cannot expect publishers to afford to promote their books properly, nor bookshelves to stock them. To read the "merchandisers" shelves with "formula books" that have a predictable sale and bookshelves are relieved of the task of actually having to decide for themselves what to stock. As the number of new titles published goes on inexorably increasing—now approaching 1,000 per month—one has some sympathy for them.

It is possible that the reason Secker and Warburg's books don't sell is not that our society is "wildly philistine and thoroughly xenophobic", but simply that readers cannot find them anywhere? Yours faithfully,
P. F. BRAITHWAITE, Editor,
The Good Book Guide,
Broadwater & Taylor Ltd,
PO Box 400,
Haverlock Terrace, SW8,
May 20.

Hole in one twice

From Mr P. A. H. Clark
Sir, Concerning your report (May 17), in memory of my grandfather and his creak, I quote from the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* of September 23, 1899: "I heard of a very curious incident happening last week at Eastbourne, which, I rather fancy, is quite unique. That well known and, if he will allow me to add, wonderfully improved golfer, Mr J. E. Shaw, was playing for the eighth hole and, with two successive balls, holed out with his creak from the tee. Fluke though of course it was, it shows with what deadly accuracy Mr Shaw was hitting. (Signed) 'Niblick'."

Yours faithfully,
P. A. H. CLARK,
2 Darnley Drive,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
May 19.

Elegant instruments

From Mr G. L. E. Turner and Dr J. A. Bennett
Sir, We share wholeheartedly Mr Arthur Frank's enthusiasm (May 13) for the elegance of old scientific instruments, and the skill and invention of their makers. Having collections of scientific instruments to care for, rather than to dispose of, we see the problems they pose rather differently.

Mr Frank underestimates, with his "fewer than a dozen" museums in Great Britain and Ireland, the number of institutions with considerable collections of scientific artefacts. There are well over a dozen, like our museums of the history of science at Oxford and Cambridge, which are of international importance. Many more have significant, if smaller, groups of scientific instruments in their charge. But like all museums in Britain today, we face grave problems in caring for, and still more, adding to our collections for lack of funds, and in some cases (as at Oxford), lack of space.

Anderson beat Mrs Woodruffe 3 and 2.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
make ideas take shape

Citibank prime rate cut to 14.5 per cent reflects easing in pace of inflation

From Frank Vogel
Washington, May 23
American interest rates fell dramatically today. Further sharp falls are expected on Wall Street where a cut in the Federal Reserve Board's 13 per cent discount rate is now widely predicted.

Citibank cut its prime lending rate to 14 1/2 per cent from 15 1/2 per cent. Other banks followed and Mr Michael Morgan, vice president of Citibank's credit policy committee, said: "I think the rate is going down further. I can easily see a 10 per cent prime rate."

The prime rate has moved down from 20 per cent in the last six weeks, but other short-term rates have fallen even faster. Today the 90 day Treasury bill rate was one per cent below last week's level at just 7 1/2 per cent in mid-March. The rate reductions came after the release of a report showing a moderation in the pace of inflation and central bank moves to ease credit restrictions.

The Fed stressed that the moves should not be viewed as a basic change in policy, which is a view that numerous experts accepted today. American consumer prices rose by 0.9 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis in April, after a gain in the previous month of 1.4 per cent. The Labor Department said the annual inflation rate by the end of April, based upon data for the last three months, was down to 11.6 per cent from 18.6 per cent in March.

Dr Alfred Kahn, adviser to the President on inflation, told the joint economic committee of Congress that the new numbers were a sign "of the kind of decline in the rate of inflation that we expected, down to the 10 per cent range by the middle of 1980 and even below". But interpreting the latest Fed action, rather than the inflation outlook, was the prime concern of economists and investment analysts today.

Dr Lawrence Chimerine, head of Chase Econometrics Associates, asserted in an interview that in view of the weakness of the economy, the Fed's credit restrictions were "meaningless" and he thought the package of special measures would be removed in a month or so. Mr Richard Peterson, chief economist at Continental Bank, had the same view. He said that the economy was now so weak and consumer confidence so low that there was so little demand for fresh credit that specific Fed guidelines regarding increased credit granting were serving no purpose.

The Fed announced last night that it was reducing to 7.5 per cent from 15 per cent the special marginal reserve requirement imposed on March 14 on lenders offering consumer credit for money market funds. These funds will, as a result, become more attractive investments.

The Fed also lowered to five per cent from 10 per cent the reserve requirements on certain managed liabilities of banks. Even if these moves do not mean a direct change in Fed policy, they reflect concern within the Fed about the state of the economy.

The Ford Motor Company reported today that new car sales in the 10 days to May 20 fell by 35 per cent, and the Labour Department said that real earnings in April declined 1.2 per cent, after a fall of 0.8 per cent in March.

Mr Morgan said the Fed's new moves were "a reflection of how they are reading the tea leaves. The economy is in a free fall right now, and they must be sensitive to this". The fall in interest rates and the decision to dismantle partially the March credit restraint programme resulted in the Dow Jones industrial average closing 11.8 points up at \$54.10 on trading in 45,790,000 shares.

The United States basic money supply (M1-A) fell to a seasonally-adjusted average of \$370,000m in the week ended May 18, down from a revised \$371,300m the previous week. The broader money supply known as M2 decreased to an average of \$387,300m in the week from a revised \$388,700m a week ago, the Federal Reserve reported.

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The Bank of England yesterday announced the issue of a new stock designed to attract investors paying high marginal rates of tax.

The 3 per cent Treasury stock 1985 is similar to an issue of £1,000m last July which ran out on April 21. It is timed to attract some of the redemption money to be paid out on June 15 from earlier low coupon stocks.

The 500m of new stock will be issued by tender, payable in full. The minimum tender price at 69 per cent was thought by some market men to be too high to attract a great deal of interest.

The yield to redemption is 11.31 per cent at the minimum tender price. For those paying 60 per cent marginal tax rate this works out at 9.07 per cent net.

The Government hopes that this will mop up at least some of the £660m to be repaid from 51 per cent funding 1978-80, and 31 per cent Treasury stock 1977-80, both of which will mature next month.

The new stock could thus help the Government's funding programme and head off a possible increase in the money supply if the redemption monies were put on bank deposits.

The Government's main concern with the money supply figures at the moment is the continued high level of bank lending rather than public sector borrowing. Recently the Bank of England has overruled the public sector to counteract the effect of the money supply of rapid advances in bank credit.

New stock to attract high rate taxpayer

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
Alternative sources of funds are being explored by senior executives of Immos, the National Enterprise Board's semi-conductor subsidiary, in the event of the Government refusing to approve a second tranche of £25m of state cash.

Company executives are still optimistic that Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, will approve the cash being advanced to set up a factory at Bristol. But their anxiety is growing, because five months have elapsed since the new NEB board recommended that the second tranche of cash should be approved, together with the necessary industrial development certificate.

Immos has invited Sir Keith to visit the company's premises at Colorado Springs next week when he visits the United States for talks in California's "silicon valley". The industry secretary's already tight schedule makes his acceptance unlikely, but Dr Richard Petritz, the chairman, and his colleagues still hope to have talks with Sir Keith at some stage during his visit.

The next six weeks will be critical for the future of the venture. Design work on the Bristol plant has been taken as far as it can without a decision on the cash, but all work has been halted since last month. This has dislocated the Immos business plan which was geared to the plant being commissioned at the beginning of 1982. About £1m would have to be written off if there is no decision to go ahead.

Against a background of uncertainty created by the lack of a government decision, complicated in the past two months by expressions of interest from GEC's Sir Arnold Weinstock in acquiring a possible stake in the venture, Immos executives have renewed discussions with other possible sources of cash. The issue is further complicated by strong regional representations, especially from south Wales, for the manufacturing plant to be located there. A government offer to provide the cash conditional upon Immos locating the plant in south Wales or an assisted area would create further delays, because Immos has consistently stressed the importance of the manufacturing plant being adjacent to its already established technology centre.

Immos plans to employ about 4,000 people, most of them in the United Kingdom. Leading article, page 15

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State funds delay forces Immos to sound out other cash sources

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Charterhouse bid puts £43m value on Keyser

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent
A joint announcement yesterday confirmed the terms of the bid by the Charterhouse Group for Keyser Ullmann. The one-for-one share offer values Keyser at £43m and the takeover will form a group in which former Keyser shareholders will own 34 per cent of the equity.

Mr Derek Wilde, chairman of Keyser who was brought in from Barclays when the bank was caught up in the fringe banking crisis, said the bad publicity in the past had inhibited the public between 50 and 60 per cent of its capital during the summer, Mr Mobbs said.

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Quiet year for Equity Capital

By Philip Robinson
Equity Capital for Industry, the investment group backed by 300 financial institutions, mostly pension funds and insurance companies, spent only £2.1m of its £30m funds last year.

Lord Plowden, in his third annual report as chairman, said that liquidity was adequate in the corporate sector and a buoyant stock market for much of the time made last year "the quietest since the inception of ECI".

The investment fund was set up with the idea of providing money for public companies having difficulties raising funds elsewhere but otherwise sound lending prospects. Two years ago it was a major talking point in the City whether ECI had proved its usefulness. The group's first investment was a disaster. It injected £1.7m into Bond Worth which went out of business in August, 1977. Last year paper makers Britains went the same way. ECI's investment cost £1.5m, some of which it may recover.

In two new investments last year were £420,000 in Dorada Holdings, motor distributors, and a £1.1m injection for engineers GEL International. The value of its six other equity stakes last year dropped 12 per cent to £5.8m.

UBM continues to be its best investment. ECI spent a further £600,000 maintaining its 10.2 per cent stake whose value rose from £3.7m to a shade over £4m. But its 9.5 per cent stake in textile group John Foster dropped from £415,000 to £278,000 and a 20 per cent interest in rope makers Hawkins and Tipson—where Mr Alan Barrett, ECI's managing director, took over in January—fell from £573,000 to £278,000.

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Successful looking ending bet

Stock markets
Ind 423.3 down 3.2
Gilt 68.08 up 0.54

Oil
450 up 1.6 cents
ex 74.3 up 0.3

Far
84.1 down 0.4
17785 down 115 pts

Gold
00 up \$12.00

Key
Sterling 177.17-17
Euro \$ 94.94
Euro \$ 94.94

3 intends
t sale
erranti
ing

ational Enterprise
lmed last night that
ded to dispose of its
t holding in Forranzi
s possible after the
of the financial
t month.
npany recorded an
sales from £156.85m
for the year ending
while pre-tax profits
£9.12m to £9.94m.
per cent stake in
as acquired by the
74 as part of a plan
he company after its
draft exceeded its
rv. The holding was
50 per cent two years
2.66 million shares
in offer on a 1-for-3

More companies give warning of gloomy industrial prospects

By Rosemary Unsworth
The spate of bleak industrial news continued yesterday with more company chairman outlining the gloomy prospects. Share prices fell again, although some of the sellers included those who did not want to stay in for the last week of the three week holiday account.

Babcock International, the engineering group, emerged as the latest victim of the recession as Sir John King, the chairman, gave warning at the annual meeting that the group was heading for "substantial" lower interim profits.

We anticipated that 1980 would be a difficult year, but in the past few weeks there has been a marked change in the ordering patterns both in the country and in the United States, indicating that trading conditions at least for the next few months will be more severe than we previously thought," he said.

He blamed high interest rates and the recent depreciation in exchange rates for the profits fall. Babcock's share price dipped to the year's low at 82p, 5p down on the news.

Hornfry, the carpets group, also announced a half time £2.5m loss which was £1m more than it expected to lose. Last year's interim profits were £250,000. The share price dipped 1p to 11p during the afternoon.

Oil demand set for 12-year low

By Edward Townsend
Demand for oil in the United Kingdom this year is expected to be the lowest for 12 years and may never again reach the peak achieved in 1973, according to predictions from Esso Petroleum.

Mr Archibald Forster, the company's chairman and chief executive, said yesterday that major reductions in fuel oil to power stations had already been made. The use of coal as a replacement and reduced electricity demand were the main causes.

"Though we see oil as a finite resource, the oil industry's future as an industry is not one of decline," Mr Forster said. "A great deal of the oil we will be selling in the decade to come is yet to be discovered—under increasingly difficult conditions offshore. This alone is a mammoth task."

"Our volumes of sale, apart from fuel oil, will not be reduced significantly—if at all—for many years, but the businesses they go into will be radically transformed," Mr Forster told the Institute of Energy. He was delivering the Idris Jones Memorial Lecture. The British National Oil Corporation announced yesterday that the pipeline linking the Thistle "A" and Dunfin platforms in the North Sea, severed on April 6, had been repaired and recommissioned on schedule. Oil will be pumped through the line as soon as a tanker now anchored at the field has been loaded.

The pipeline project, which could collect daily 1,000 million cubic feet of gas that would otherwise be burned by companies drilling for oil, has been accepted.

£1,000m pipeline approval expected by British Gas

By Bill Johnstone
British Gas has submitted plans to the Banff district and Highland regional councils for work to be carried out at St Fergus and Nigg Bay in expectation of the Government's approval for the proposed £1,000m gas gathering pipeline in the North Sea.

It is the first formal move to suggest that the project, which could collect daily 1,000 million cubic feet of gas that would otherwise be burned by companies drilling for oil, has been accepted.

The idea of the pipeline first came up about four years ago as the number of exploration fields grew in the North Sea. Each was "flaring burning" the natural gas from oil exploration because the quantities in each case could not individually justify a pipeline. At present about a dozen fields flare burning about 490 million cubic feet a day.

The St Fergus site covers 500 acres. It will be expanded by 400 acres to include a plant for the separation of liquids from the natural gas of the type operated by Total at St Fergus since 1977.

Shell has plans to separate its gas at St Fergus via a pipeline from its East Fife field. The resulting separate liquids will be piped to a new plant at Moss-

Anger over BSC pact on Brazil curbs

By Our Industrial Editor
British Steel Corporation has reached agreement with Brazil's state controlled steel company restricting shipments of a wide range of products to the United Kingdom.

The move has angered steel traders and will not be welcomed by the stockholding industry which played a major role in maintaining lines of supply during the 13-week strike which closed down all BSC operations earlier this year.

Formal protests are expected to be lodged by the International Steel Trade Association, which believes that any pact between countries should be made at European rather than at national level. Brazil has become a major steel-making nation and has stepped up its competitively priced exports.

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Engineering jobs lost

More than 650 jobs in engineering and electronics are being lost as a result of falling orders.

Decca is making 250 employees, a quarter of the workforce, redundant at its radio and television factory in Bridgford, Shropshire, because of a slump in world markets and intense international competition.

Stanley Tools is making 250 workers redundant from four South Yorkshire factories. The company, which employs 1,800 people in three factories in Sheffield and one in Rother-

ham, said the cuts had been forced by a shrinking home market for its specialized hand tools.

Staveley Machine Tools is making redundant 156 workers at its Gildford factory because of a continued shortage of orders.

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The Edinburgh Investment Trust Limited

Energy 26%
Mining 9%
Retailing 10%
Technology 8%
Industrials 30%
Financials 14%
Far East 3%

Total equities worldwide at 31 March 1980 £94.7m.

Assets
Over the year to 31 March 1980 the net asset value of the ordinary shares fell 5% compared with a fall in the U.K. stock market measured by the FT Actuaries Index of 10%.

Dividends
The net dividend was increased by 28% during the year and the Chairman has forecast "a satisfactory increase in the dividend in the current year".

Share Price
Ordinary shares at 20 May 1980 69p
Dividend yield on last year's rate 5.18%

The 1980 Annual Report contains a review of the portfolio and may be obtained from the company secretary, Mr. Colin Peters, 3 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DS.

PRICE CHANGES

with 4p to 75p	Midland Wits 15p to 420p
ogian 2p to 42p	Pollack 11p to 58p
14p to 64p	Tharish Sulphur 20p to 225p
3p to 38p	Wardle 3p to 26p
17p to 455p	Youngland Carpets 1p to 12p

6p to 51p	Movitec 2p to 11p
Ham 15p to 600p	Preforma P. Cem 30p to 345p
dem 1p to 5p	Verder 15p to 614p
3p to 71p	Verdering Ref 20p to 270p
15p to 675p	Wheway Watson 2p to 11p

Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sell	sell
2.11	2.04	11.75
31.90	29.25	115.00
69.90	66.40	2.05
2.73	2.66	167.00
13.31	12.76	10.06
8.99	8.95	4.02
9.95	9.55	2.38
4.32	4.10	50.00
100.50	95.50	
1.14	1.10	
2010.90	1915.00	
543.00	520.00	
4.73	4.50	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Three cheers for the National Consumer Council for publishing a book this week called *Gobbledegook*. It attacks the incomprehensibility of much official literature, particularly that produced by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Those who have read this literature will only too readily agree that it begs translation into plain English.

The NCC also provides the baffled public with ammunition in the form of "This is gobbledegook" stickers, which can be attached to offending publications. These could be in great demand for all types of official literature.

Forms full of jargon, coupled with complicated presentation, often repay hours of study with not even the dimmest light at

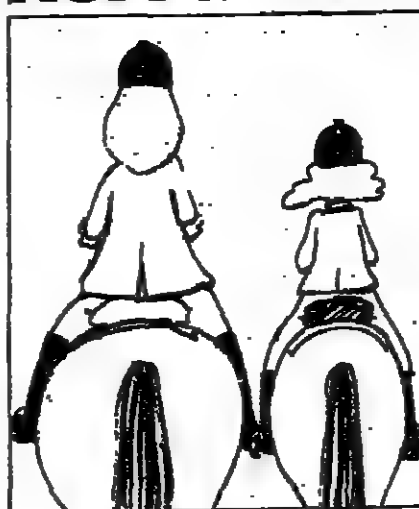
the end of the tunnel—often because you are looking up the wrong tunnel.

Tax forms, with their copious notes in small print, are a prime example. Insurance companies should also heed the lesson, judging by the widespread misunderstanding on the part of policyholders of such phrases (and the explanations given of them) as "reversionary bonuses", "surrender values" and "paid up policies".

Building societies are not exempt, resulting in a frequent ignorance of the workings of repayment and endowment mortgages. But the main offenders must be pension funds with an enormous vocabulary all of their own which those in the industry blithely imagine the members understand.

Let us hope that they all take a page out of this particular book.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



THERE THEY GO RIDING OFF INTO THE SUNRISE

A LIFE OF TACK, OATS, VETS, HORSE BOXES, BLACKSMITHS...

I WONDER HOW ROY ROGER COPE?



Alternative investment

Catching the cult of country

The large capital gains made by sellers of works of art and collectables receive plenty of publicity and look particularly enticing when compared with the grim investment record of too many equities and gilts.

Anyone contemplating a foray into the field of alternative investment will be relieved to know that prices in some areas are still moving sharply upwards and that the risks are generally no greater than in conventional investment. But, as with many other financial undertakings, if you are not an expert, you must arm yourself with reliable professional advice.

If it were possible to compile a composite index of alternative investments, a strong

The first article in a new series.

and steady pattern of growth would certainly emerge, although within it, of course, the performance of the components would vary considerably and include some sharp falls in value.

Precious metals remain the most unprejudiced of investments and with their one-time reputation for stability now badly tarnished they are standing a long way below their peak prices—gold 42 per cent, platinum 48 per cent and silver 72 per cent.

Meanwhile, a diamond suitable for investment—that is a one-carat D flawless round brilliant with Gemological Institute of America certificate—is nearly 20 per cent below its peak of eight weeks ago, yet still showing a 100 per cent gain on its May 1979 value. The outlook for diamonds in the short term is now less promising and it is probable that they will be outperformed by rubies and sapphires over the next 12 months.

But the need to discriminate has never been more urgent. Now that almost anything that is not consumed right away is reckoned to hold investment potential, the old criteria of historical or aesthetic value have been widened to include material of the slightest possible interest to some social historian of the future. Serious collections are now being formed of railway time-tables, beer-mats and so on, previously

regarded as too trivial to bother with.

Which of these collecting fields that have sprouted recently will still be flourishing in 1990 is anyone's guess. At least the objects in question should not be ignored merely because they are cheap. It is worth remembering that many an impressionist print that now sells for more than £10,000 might have been bought for £20-£30 in the 1950s.

One powerful force at work all over the world and one that has had, and is having, a profound effect on market values is the strong resurgence of cultural nationalism. In an unstable world collectors are satisfying the psychological need to steep themselves in their native culture by buying art objects and collectables produced by their compatriots.

Americans are especially prone to buying for this reason and there was an example earlier this month at Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York where \$270,000 was paid for "The Peaceable Kingdom" by Edward Hicks (1780-1849) which depicted the scene of Israel, Chapter 11, in which the leopard lies down with the

lion.

For the last year and a half American coin prices have been hurtling upwards at the rate of 5-10 per cent a month and in some cases now double the price. For the fundamentals are attractive. The American coinage is a fairly short series of just 250 years. Well-researched, it has good marketability as well as several hundred thousand collectors and new money coming in all the time.

The American coin market has had its setbacks in the past but every time returns more strongly than before. The momentum behind American coins for the time being is enormous and there is no sign of a crack in the market. Investors in high-fliers always need strong nerves, but the prospect for further gains in this field over the next year is extremely good.

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of the mid-15th to the mid-17th centuries, regarded as the high point of Persian culture and therefore in demand internationally.

Persian carpets, although very much an international field, eased back slightly after the revolution and now, with the American ban on imports and the disappearance of German dealers, for no known reason, from the saleroom demand has remained subdued. An investor taking a medium-term view should certainly regard the present weakness as a buying opportunity.

Meanwhile, in the American market, inflation, recession and the novel experience of political impotence have driven buyers to an almost reactionary position on alternative investments. Prices are rising strongly for American paintings, prints, maps, quilts, coins, bank-notes, bonds and nearly all Americana.

American buying of United States 19th century paintings gathered momentum during the 1970s and over the last five years pictures now in the \$10,000 to \$50,000 range have gone up in value by 300-400 per cent. But the eighteenth century is at present at a substantial and unwarranted discount to the nineteenth and it is only a matter of time before prices are brought back into line. A shrewd investor might do well to buy good eighteenth century American paintings and await the realignment.

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A detail from "The Peaceable Kingdom" by Edward Hicks which fetched \$270,000 in New York this month: "exceptional" rather than artistic considerations may have dictated the price.

Unit trusts

Gilt-edged fund makes its debut

First off the mark in the great race to offer the first post-Budget gilt-edged unit trust is the Allied Hambro Group, which is launching its Government Securities Fund on Tuesday. As autumn is the earliest time most of its rivals can expect to have competing funds ready, one has to ask how Allied Hambro has managed this little coup.

The answer is that Mr Mark St Giles, the managing director, jumped the gun. Expecting some relaxation in the regulations, which would make it easier for the unit trust industry to invest in gilt-edged securities, the company had a trust deed already wending its way through the Department of Trade (which has to authorize all new funds).

In the event, the Finance Bill took the industry by surprise by suggesting a different form of trust for the new look gilt funds. Allied Hambro had the choice of leaving its embryonic gilt fund stranded and starting from scratch with another once the Finance Act was on the statute book, or taking the risk of launching it now, tax warts and all, and adding a supplementary deed later.

Mr Mark St Giles decided on the latter course because he, and many other investment managers, believe that the best pickings in the gilt market may be gone by the autumn. By being launched now, the fund will initially have to accept a corporation tax of 52 per cent on the income it receives unfranked from its gilt investments. Under the new legislation, the tax rate will be reduced 30 per cent.

The result is a fund which has two estimated starting yields—according to the tax position from which you look. The present yield is 9 per cent, but assuming nothing upward upsets the Finance Bill (a risk, however unlikely, that the managers have to run) the post-Finance Act, 1980, yield will be 13.2 per cent.

Investors, in short, are being asked to accept a temporary lower yield in order to optimize the investment advantages of buying gilts now rather than later (when yields may have fallen and the capital appreciation is already seen). As the first income accounting period

runs to the end of October, even this hardship is not very severe.

This instant gilt fund is a good idea made even better by Allied Hambro's attractive policy towards small unit-holders. Like many other groups it had reluctantly decided that minimum unit holdings should be £500. But now that higher annual charges (2 per cent on this fund) are permitted, it is lowering its sights and the starting off point for the gilt fund is only £250.

Another plus point is that the spread between bid and offer price (the buying and selling price to the public) has been narrowed to 1½ per cent to

bring it into line with the spread in the gilt market. The initial charge of 1 per cent (reflected in the offer price) will be waived on cash applications, which means that these unit-holders will be given an effective discount of 1 per cent on the purchase price.

These investors will be buying gilt-edged funds—and management—at much cheaper rates than buying gilt-edged securities through a stockbroker. The commission on a £500 direct investment in the stock market would be 2.59 per cent, compared with effective dealing costs of 1.75 per cent with this fund. Buying government stock from the Govern-

ment Stock Register (forms available from the Post Office) is cheaper still at 1.05 per cent—but there is a time lag and there is no investment advice or management.

● Allied Hambro's foray into the gilt market slightly overshadowed the excellent performance statistics for the income unit trusts produced by the Unit Trust Association earlier in the week. Curiously, the dividend restraint which characterized much of the seventies helped enormously, as most companies treated the ceiling growth rate as a norm.

Margaret Stone

GROWTH AND INCOME
(Income funds Jan 1 1970-Jan 1 1980)

	Original income on £1,000 invested	Present income on same investment	Growth income %	Present income as % of original income	Total income received over period	Value at end of period (reinvested)	Value at end of period (not reinvested)
Allied Hambro Equity Income	34	102	202	302	650	2,994	1,923
Allied Hambro High Income	34	113	234	354	638	3,060	2,003
Arbuthnot High Income	46	117	155	255	733	2,577	1,500
Britannia Extra Income	51	122	139	229	714	2,572	1,477
Britannia Nat. High Income	37	122	227	327	644	2,572	1,581
Cabot Income	33	63	91	181	444	2,240	1,587
Crescent High Distribution	34	106	212	312	641	2,377	1,437
Henderson High Income	37	114	207	307	693	3,257	1,900
Hill Samuel Income	34	88	189	289	552	2,277	1,402
James Finlay High Income	34	101	203	303	703	2,309	1,318
London Wall High Income	38	135	256	356	787	2,558	1,640
M & G Dividend	40	121	203	303	707	3,504	2,142
M & G High Income	50	155	209	309	896	4,287	2,433
M & G Midland	29	138	275	475	877	3,524	2,338
Midland Drayton Income	43	107	148	248	687	3,147	1,988
Mutual Income	34	121	251	351	677	3,045	1,995
National Westminster Income	39	115	217	317	511	2,527	1,521
Oceanic High Income	36	100	181	281	500	2,015	1,183
S & P High Return	42	143	242	342	761	3,335	2,072
S & P High Yield	35	108	208	308	612	2,401	1,538
S & P Income	37	101	174	274	600	2,118	1,282
S & P Select Income	29	89	206	306	518	2,006	1,313
Schlesinger Income	35	109	211	311	649	2,665	1,702
Schroder Income	23	84	265	365	659	2,743	1,513
Target Income	54	115	313	413	528	3,051	1,878
Target Preference	59	85	144	244	622	1,498	696
Tyndall Income	30	78	160	260	522	1,753	1,071
Tyndall Preference	13	186	1331	1431	580	2,876	2,045
Tyndall Scottish Income	33	115	249	349	664	2,780	1,662
Union Income	34	104	205	305	611	3,212	2,147
Average of unit trusts	36	111	208	308	650	2,898	1,870
FT—Industrial Ordinary Index	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,451
FT—All-Share Ordinary Index	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,187
Building Societies	—	86	72	172	680	1,890	1,000
Bank Deposit Account	31	77	148	248	440	1,543	1,000

All income is net (after tax). *Investment aim has changed (Fund formerly Tyndall Canynge). SOURCE: Unit Trust Association and Money Management.

Motor insurance

Penalties of paring down the costs

Motorists busy watching the latest round of oil price increases and already shuddering under the weight of increased running costs, particularly insurance premiums, must be wondering just how they can afford to drive these days. Car insurance premiums have risen twice in the last twelve months, on average by about 12 per cent this year, after a 9 per cent rise last summer.

With so many motorists anxious to cut costs there is a marked trend away from full comprehensive motor insurance towards third party cover—often with the addition of fire and theft risks.

Such a move can cut the premium by up to half. But it means that there is no cover for damage to the car—whether caused by yourself or the negligence of somebody else on the road.

Claims for the cost of repairs from another motorist will not always be successful, even when, quite clearly, he or she was at fault. First, the other motorist may not be insured; according to General Accident, the country's largest motor insurer, roughly one in every 13 cars on the road is not insured at all, despite the legal requirement.

Even if the law is met, it is not compulsory for another motorist to be insured for damage to property. If a motorist takes his chances and does not insure, the chances are that it may not be worth the powder and shot to take him to court to recover from him personally the cost of your repairs.

Increasingly, motorists responsible for damaging other cars are not telling their own insurers—either to preserve a no-claim discount, or to avoid a premium increase on renewal. One insurer specialist in providing cover for drivers with poor records found it had earned a bad name in the market because it appeared to refuse to settle third party claims.

The truth was that a number of its own policyholders were not notifying accidents, even after being prompted by the company. And unless a policyholder tells his or her insurer the company cannot settle with a third party.

The only time you can claim direct against another motorist's insurer for compensation is if the other motorist is declared bankrupt. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile approaching the other motorist's insurer (if you have been able to discover its name), since the company may be able to press its policyholder into activity.

The situation is different when claiming for compensation for personal injury. If the motorist was insured, or if insurance was in force but had expired at the time of the accident, application should be made to the Motor Insurers' Bureau. All authorized motor insurers are members. Where there has been no insurance at all, the handling of the claim, on behalf of the MIB, will be carried out by an insurance company on a rota system.

The MIB is also the body to approach if the other motorist has insurance in force, but it is not effective—due, say, to a breach of warranty. The insurer which issued the policy will handle the claim, and will be entitled to try to recover from its policyholder the amount of any claim settled.

Finally, there is the position where the motorist responsible for a personal injury refuses to involve his insurer. This is a situation which insurers dislike, because they much prefer to be involved in the negotiations from the outset. An insurer probably will be prepared to put more pressure on a motorist than in the case of property damage.

If, however, the motorist is adamant, a judgment has to be obtained. The insurer must be given notice before the issue of the writ, or within seven days afterwards. If a judgment is obtained, under the terms of the Road Traffic Act 1972, the insurer has to satisfy it.

In a case of personal injury, therefore, compensation should be obtained in the long run. It may not, however, be possible to recover the cost of repairs to the car—which is one of the arguments in favour of having full comprehensive cover.

John Drummond

Taxation

Accounting for your gains and losses

And so to capital taxation—the next section we came across in our plod through the annual return—where inevitably, the emphasis must be on capital gains tax. Not only is your income tax office not interested in transfers for capital transfer tax, but you need only make a return if the transfers are outside or above the various exemptions.

Since most people lived in the confident expectation throughout 1979-80 that CTT rates would be dramatically reduced by the Chancellor (a vain hope) we reckon that few chargeable transfers would have been made, except as it were enforced transfers on death. The procedure in this case is outside the scope of this article.

There were pre-Budget hopes about capital gains tax, too, and no doubt many transactions were delayed in the hope that they would be taxed more leniently in 1980-81. Nevertheless, the capital gains tax section of the income tax return is likely to be a major area for attention.

The form looks deceptively simple and, indeed, for most people completing this part of the return it is easy. You need only write "Gains not exceeding £1,000 and disposal proceeds not exceeding £5,000", to use the rather pedantic phraseology recommended by the Inland Revenue—as long as that in fact represents your position. In other words, you have sold (or otherwise disposed of) only £5,000 of taxable assets, such as shares and the total gains on these disposals are no more than £1,000.

If your total gains or disposals are greater than these amounts—even if you are still exempt from tax because your

net gains (after taking loan account any losses) bring you within the exempt figure, then you will need to return details of all your taxable acquisitions and disposals.

It is worth delving into the capital gains tax rules in greater detail. Essentially, capital gains tax is charged on gains in the value of assets between the date of their acquisition and the date of their disposal. Tax is not charged on gains which accrued before April 6, 1965, and certain assets, such as your main home or gilt-edged securities held for over a year, are exempt from the tax. There are also various important reliefs—for instance, on sales of certain business assets and the homes of relatives who are dependent on you.

Disposal does not just mean sale; it can also include a gift and may even mean loss by, say, destruction in a fire if you were able to claim insurance successfully. There is, however, no capital gains tax at the ultimate disposal of an asset.

You can set losses on most disposals in a tax year against your gains and this will give you the amount of your taxable gain. If total losses are greater than total gains in a year, you can carry the net loss forward to later years and use the loss to offset the subsequent chargeable gain.

Unfortunately, you cannot carry back losses—for instance, by setting a 1980-81 against a 1979-80 gain.

Capital gains tax for 1979-80 was charged at 30 per cent standard rate, unless total net gains were under £9,500. In this case, the first £1,000 was taxed at nil, the next £4,000 was taxed at 10 per cent and the following £4,500 was taxed at a marginal rate of 50 per cent.

For each disposal, you must give details of the asset, in

particular when you acquire and at what cost or, in case of a gift, at what you should also include a pension. You should then the sale proceeds or value disposal.

The Inland Revenue wants to know about all acquisitions that you made either by way of purchase or gift or inheritance. This gives the Inland R a check against your future liability and, of course, the tax liability of those from whom you have assets.

Finally, we must mention CTT return because it is possible that some people have made taxable transfers. Strictly, this is not an annual return cause it has to be on only if you have a charge transfer, in other words, a gift which is not exempt from gift tax.

The conscientious is in something of a quagmire here, because there are borderline cases between exempt and the taxable which is difficult to see how it be tested.

The £2,000 annual exemption per donor is straightforward enough and most of the key exemptions are well cut and dried; but when the matter comes to a regular from income which is so it does not diminish the standard of living? It seems that the taxpayer make the decision as to whether he qualifies by himself, there appears to be no room in the return to view of the situation.

Danby Bloch
Raymond Goc

Talking shop

When machines go wrong

When the washing machine decides to pump water on to the floor rather than down the drain, giving it a good kick might make you feel better, though it usually does little to solve the problem. Unskilled in workings of modern domestic appliances, we are mostly left to the mercy of the repair man, who can prove expensive as well as elusive.

If the machine is still covered by the usual one-year guarantee period, that is fine. If not, the cost to fix it will depend on the size of the problem. The bill will be made up of a call-out charge—usually at least £10—further labour costs, which will depend on the amount of time spent, and the cost of materials or parts. So an engineer literally just popping in and out to repair a simple fault can charge upwards of £15.

Serious deficiencies are expensive. A new motor for a washing machine can cost up to £100 to put in, while a defunct refrigerator compressor can make you dig into your pocket to the tune of £80—in which case it could be worth curbing your losses and buying a new refrigerator.

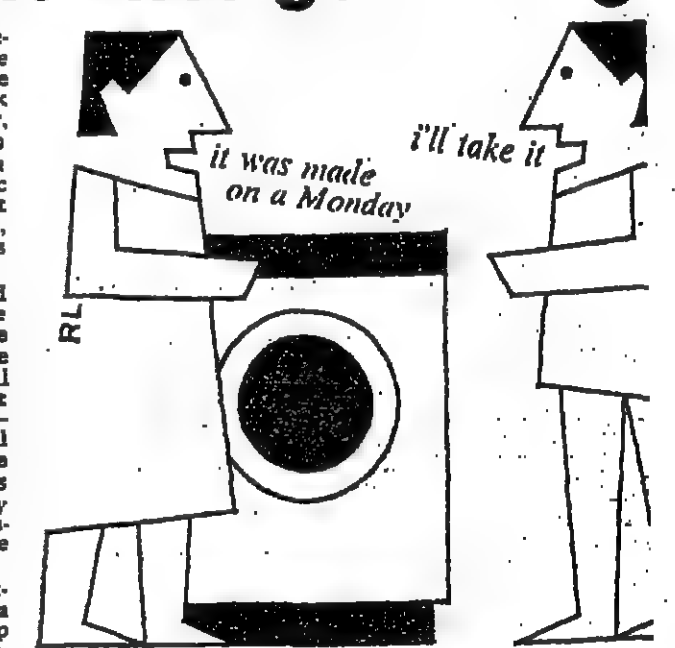
You can, however, hedge your bets by taking out the manufacturer's maintenance contract on the expiry of the guarantee period. This is basically a type of insurance: you pay a certain amount each year in return for the manufacturer's undertaking to foot the repair bill—no matter how often you use the service, or how expensive the job. You will not, however, be covered if you accidentally drive the car into a freezer kept in the garage.

It seems illogical that on the one hand manufacturers pride themselves on the reliability of their machines, yet on the other admit that they will go wrong, by actually offering maintenance contracts. But they say that they really cannot put hand on heart and declare that no one component of their complex machinery will ever go wrong during the lifetime of the machine.

The cost of the contract varies from company to company. However, for example, charge £26.50 a year for an automatic washing machine. This is the flat fee, including a free service, irrespective of the increased risk as the machine gets older, although the company reserves the right to increase it to meet inflation.

Philips, on the other hand, charge £26.51 a year for the first five years, after which there is a 10 per cent surcharge to meet the increased risk of the ageing machine going wrong. Freezers and fridges with fewer parts, will cost less—£9 to £15 a year.

Most manufacturers offer a maintenance contract for up to



10 years after which you can on your own, if, indeed, you can get the parts. British manufacturers belonging to the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances adhere to the code of practice which demands that spare parts are kept for a minimum of 10 years. Members of the European Domestic Appliance Manufacturers' Association, the international counterpart, will soon be bound by a similar code, at present in draft form with the Office of Fair Trading.

If you do not take out a maintenance contract when the guarantee runs out, you can do so at a later date. But the company will send its engineer round to make sure that the machine is up to scratch—after your expense—before taking you on.

Although the cost of a maintenance contract is likely to have little effect on your decision to buy a particular make of "white goods", it is worth checking on your options. Some retailers, such as Currys, offer their own contracts. The idea is to offer cover on goods where the manufacturers fail to provide a service themselves.

Foreign goods, for example, do not always have a maintenance option; and, at present, cover for fridge freezers is patchy. Currys' automatic washing machine rate is £25.50, increasing to £34 after five years, while a fridge/freezer will cost £16.

Although most insurance companies underwrite manufacturers' schemes only, Domestic & General, based in North London, offers policies on television sets as well as white goods—to the public. The company's own retailers, as brokers offering its contract when sales are made.

The costs include £29.50 for an automatic washing machine, rising sharply to £41.50 a year, and £52.50 in year two. You take the policy, you buy the machine, you buy the guarantee, there is a £5 reduced price in account. Some General points out that their scheme you do not call the company engineer can call in any firm you which could cut down the ing period (this should be than a week, but as a horror stories abound).

The policy also includes theft and accidental damage cover on a "new for basis, paying out the full of a replacement whatever actually paid yourself, cannot, of course, claim over if this cover is pro by your household ex policy).

Manufacturers argue own contracts are best

Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts lead the way

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 12. Dealings End, May 30. Contango Day, June 2. Settlement Day, June 9

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1979/80			1978/79			1977/78			1976/77			1975/76			1974/75			1973/74			1972/73			1971/72			1970/71			1969/70			1968/69			1967/68			1966/67			1965/66			1964/65			1963/64			1962/63			1961/62			1960/61			1959/60			1958/59			1957/58			1956/57			1955/56			1954/55			1953/54			1952/53			1951/52			1950/51			1949/50			1948/49			1947/48			1946/47			1945/46			1944/45			1943/44			1942/43			1941/42			1940/41			1939/40			1938/39			1937/38			1936/37			1935/36			1934/35			1933/34			1932/33			1931/32			1930/31			1929/30			1928/29			1927/28			1926/27			1925/26			1924/25			1923/24			1922/23			1921/22			1920/21			1919/20			1918/19			1917/18			1916/17			1915/16			1914/15			1913/14			1912/13			1911/12			1910/11			1909/10			1908/09			1907/08			1906/07			1905/06			1904/05			1903/04			1902/03			1901/02			1900/01			1899/00			1898/99			1897/98			1896/97			1895/96			1894/95			1893/94			1892/93			1891/92			1890/91			1889/90			1888/89			1887/88			1886/87			1885/86			1884/85			1883/84			1882/83			1881/82			1880/81			1879/80			1878/79			1877/78			1876/77			1875/76			1874/75			1873/74			1872/73			1871/72			1870/71			1869/70			1868/69			1867/68			1866/67			1865/66			1864/65			1863/64			1862/63			1861/62			1860/61			1859/60			1858/59			1857/58			1856/57			1855/56			1854/55			1853/54			1852/53			1851/52			1850/51			1849/50			1848/49			1847/48			1846/47			1845/46			1844/45			1843/44			1842/43			1841/42			1840/41			1839/40			1838/39			1837/38			1836/37			1835/36			1834/35			1833/34			1832/33			1831/32			1830/31			1829/30			1828/29			1827/28			1826/27			1825/26			1824/25			1823/24			1822/23			1821/22			1820/21			1819/20			1818/19			1817/18			1816/17			1815/16			1814/15			1813/14			1812/13			1811/12			1810/11			1809/10			1808/09			1807/08			1806/07			1805/06			1804/05			1803/04			1802/03			1801/02			1800/01			1799/00			1798/99			1797/98			1796/97			1795/96			1794/95			1793/94			1792/93			1791/92			1790/91			1789/90			1788/89			1787/88			1786/87			1785/86			1784/85			1783/84			1782/83			1781/82			1780/81			1779/80			1778/79			1777/78			1776/77			1775/76			1774/75			1773/74			1772/73			1771/72			1770/71			1769/70			1768/69			1767/68			1766/67			1765/66			1764/65			1763/64			1762/63			1761/62			1760/61			1759/60			1758/59			1757/58			1756/57			1755/56			1754/55			1753/54			1752/53			1751/52			1750/51			1749/50			1748/49			1747/48			1746/47			1745/46			1744/45			1743/44			1742/43			1741/42			1740/41			1739/40			1738/39			1737/38			1736/37			1735/36			1734/35			1733/34			1732/33			1731/32			1730/31			1729/30			1728/29			1727/28			1726/27			1725/26			1724/25			1723/24			1722/23			1721/22			1720/21			1719/20			1718/19			1717/18			1716/17			1715/16			1714/15			1713/14			1712/13			1711/12			1710/11			1709/10			1708/09			1707/08			1706/07			1705/06			1704/05			1703/04			1702/03			1701/02			1700/01			1699/00			1698/99			1697/98			1696/97			1695/96			1694/95			1693/94			1692/93			1691/92			1690/91			1689/90			1688/89			1687/88			1686/87			1685/86			1684/85			1683/84			1682/83			1681/82			1680/81			1679/80			1678/79			1677/78			1676/77			1675/76			1674/75			1673/74			1672/73			1671/72			1670/71			1669/70			1668/69			1667/68			1666/67			1665/66			1664/65			1663/64			1662/63			1661/62			1660/61			1659/60			1658/59			1657/58			1656/57			1655/56			1654/55			1653/54			1652/53			1651/52			1650/51			1649/50			1648/49			1647/48			1646/47			1645/46			1644/45			1643/44			1642/43			1641/42			1640/41			1639/40			1638/39			1637/38			1636/37			1635/36			1634/35			1633/34			1632/33			1631/32			1630/31			1629/30			1628/29			1627/28			1626/27			1625/26			1624/25			1623/24			1622/23			1621/22			1620/21			1619/20			1618/19			1617/18			1616/17			1615/16			1614/15			1613/14			1612/13			1611/12			1610/11			1609/10			1608/09			1607/08			1606/07			1605/06			1604/05			1603/04			1602/03			1601/02			1600/01			1599/00			1598/99			1597/98			1596/97			1595/96			1594/95			1593/94			1592/93			1591/92			1590/91			1589/90			1588/89			1587/88			1586/87			1585/86			1584/85			1583/84			1582/83			1581/82			1580/81			1579/80			1578/79			1577/78			1576/77			1575/76			1574/75			1573/74			1572/73			1571/72			1570/71			1569/70			1568/69			1567/68			1566/67			1565/66			1564/65			1563/64			1562/63			1561/62			1560/61			1559/60			1558/59			1557/58			1556/57			1555/56			1554/55			1553/54			1552/53			1551/52			1550/51			1549/50			1548/49			1547/48			1546/47			1545/46			1544/45			1543/44			1542/43			1541/42			1540/41			1539/40			1538/39			1537/38			1536/37			1535/36			1534/35			1533/34			1532/33			1531/32			1530/31			1529/30			1528/29			1527/28			1526/27			1525/26			1524/25			1523/24			1522/23			1521/22			1520/21			1519/20			1518/19			1517/18			1516/17			1515/16			1514/15			1513/14			1512/13			1511/12			1510/11			1509/10			1508/09			1507/08			1506/07			1505/06			1504/05			1503/04			1502/03			1501/02			1500/01			1499/00			1498/99			1497/98			1496/97			1495/96			1494/95			1493/94			1492/93			1491/92			1490/91			1489/90			1488/89			1487/88			1486/87			1485/86			1484/85			1483/84			1482/83			1481/82			1480/81			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